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Table Talk: Family Devotions

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023. The Good Shepherd

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TABLE TALK

The Good Shepherd

Prepare:

As one person lights a candle, the family reads together: (adapted from 1 John 3:16, 18)

C: By this we know love

R: that He laid down His life for us

C: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

R: Let us love in deed and in truth.

Read: John 10:11-18 (ESV)

11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13 He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. 17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

Reflect:

Sheep recognize the voice of their shepherd. They know his worth not by his words alone, but by his actions. As His disciples, we recognize the voice of our shepherd and know Jesus is the good shepherd, because He lay down His life and took it up again.

Take a moment to talk about what this passage (John 10:11-18) means for you as a family.

Now share with one another one thing you can do differently as a member of your family.

Pray:

The head of the household prays:

Heavenly Father, we thank and praise you for sending Your Son Jesus to love in deed as well as word. As your children, help us to share Your love to the world in word and deed. In Jesus's name, amen.