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WEEK 1

THE ABUNDANT LIFE: BEWARE THE THIEF, BEHOLD THE LORD

## PRAYER

Heavenly Father, let me be on guard for the thief. I pray that you would help me be firm and strong, knowing that evil lies are waiting to destroy me. Help me to recognise what has a good appearance but is evil in hiding. Protect me from temptation. Help me to see that the abundant life you've given me is much more beneficial and fulfilling than what the enemy may try to offer. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## WARM UP

(OPTIONAL)

Imagine you are on a diet of only eating food that is good for you, but you can have one meal that you can indulge. What would it be and why?

## NOTES

## WORD

<sup>1</sup>“A “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup>But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

<sup>5</sup>A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup>This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. <sup>7</sup>So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

[JOHN 10:1-10](#)

**From this passage we can see that Jesus is proclaiming that the only way to life is through him. Not just life in the biological sense, but in verse 10, Jesus says that the life he has on offer is ABUNDANT.**

**The Oxford dictionary defines ABUNDANT as existing or being available in large quantities; plentiful. This is the kind of life that Jesus offers us in himself: LIFE IN ITS FULLNESS.**

## GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your ability to make good decisions? Why have you rated yourself this way?
2. On a scale of 1-10, based on verse 3 of the above passage, how would you rate your ability to recognise the voice of God like sheep that recognise the voice of their shepherd? Why have you rated yourself this way?
3. What do you think this abundant life that Jesus is talking about looks like?

Would you say you are living an abundant life? Why or why not?

4. How do you stay aware of the “thief” that may come to steal, kill, and destroy you?
5. Jesus describes himself as “The Door” to abundant life. Have you entered into a relationship with him? If you have, how can you experience life in its fullness at all times? If you have not, would you like to? Your Life Group leader can pray for you to receive Jesus.

## PRAYER LIST