

Here's a 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide based on the themes from Pastor Pett's sermon from Good Shepherd Sunday, April 26, 2026, the Fourth Sunday of Easter and Confirmation Sunday:

5-Day Devotional: Following the Good Shepherd

Day 1: The Shepherd Who Suffered for You

Reading: [Isaiah 53:1-12](#)

Devotional: Jesus didn't just show us how to suffer—He suffered in our place. Isaiah prophesied centuries before Christ that the Messiah would bear our sins, be wounded for our transgressions, and carry our sorrows. This wasn't merely an example; it was substitutionary sacrifice. When you face injustice today, remember that Jesus endured the ultimate injustice so you could have life. He committed no sin, yet bore the punishment we deserved. This changes everything about how we view our own suffering. We don't suffer alone or without purpose. Our Shepherd walked this path first, carrying our burdens to the cross. His wounds purchased your healing and eternal life.

Reflection: *What burden are you carrying today that you need to release to your Shepherd?*

Day 2: Suffering Unjustly as Witness

Reading: [1 Peter 2:19-25](#)

Devotional: Peter presents a challenging truth: suffering for doing good brings more glory to God than accepting deserved punishment. Why? Because our response to unjust suffering reveals whether we truly trust our Shepherd. The world watches how Christians endure hardship. Do we protest, grow bitter, and demand our rights? Or do we entrust ourselves to Him who judges justly? This isn't passive resignation—it's active faith. When you suffer unfairly at work, school, or home, your gracious response speaks louder than any sermon. You're following in Christ's footsteps, who "did not revile in return" but trusted the Father completely. Your witness in suffering may be the most powerful testimony you give.

Reflection: *How have you responded to recent unjust treatment? What does that reveal about who you're following?*

Day 3: Recognizing the Shepherd's Voice

Reading: [John 10:1-18](#)

Devotional: Jesus declares, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." But can you recognize His voice amid the noise? Just as children instantly recognize their parents' voices, we must become so familiar with Jesus that we know when He's speaking. This happens through consistent time in Scripture, prayer, and worship. Other voices promise fulfillment, success, and happiness through different paths, but they lead to destruction. Only Jesus offers abundant life. The statistics are sobering—many who know about Jesus eventually follow other voices. Don't let familiarity breed complacency. Daily tune your heart to hear Him. Listen closely, follow faithfully, and reject every voice that contradicts His Word.

Reflection: *What voices are competing for your attention? How can you better tune into Jesus' voice today?*

Day 4: The Door to Abundant Life

Reading: [John 10:7-10](#)

Devotional: Jesus makes an exclusive claim: "I am the door." Not a door—the door. There's only one entrance to salvation, safety, and abundant life, and it's through Him alone. This isn't narrow-mindedness; it's gracious clarity. Imagine being lost and someone showing you the only safe path home—you'd be grateful, not offended. Jesus came that we "may have life and have it abundantly." This isn't mere existence or religious duty; it's fullness, purpose, and joy even amid trials. Every other path, no matter how attractive, leads away from this abundance. Following any voice but Jesus' isn't just pointless—it's spiritually deadly. Today, walk through the Door again, embracing the abundant life He offers.

Reflection: *In what areas of life are you settling for less than the abundance Jesus offers?*

Day 5: Staying in the Fold

Reading: [Psalm 23](#)

Devotional: "For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls." Sheep are notorious wanderers, easily distracted and vulnerable when separated from the flock. The statistics shared in the sermon are sobering—73% of those confirmed fall away from the church. But returning to the Shepherd is always possible. He restores your soul, leads you in right paths, and walks with you through the darkest valleys. Parents, grandparents—your role is crucial in keeping young sheep close to the Shepherd while they're in your care. Everyone—daily choose to stay close, to follow, to listen. Don't wander after other teachings or voices. Your Shepherd knows you by name and has prepared abundant life for you.

Reflection: *Are you wandering or following closely? What practical step will you take today to stay near your Shepherd?*