

**SCRIPTURE AND
KEY SERMON NOTES:**

GOD WANTS YOU TO FLOURISH.

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10 ESV

**GOD SEEMS TO HAVE MADE FLOURISHING
A MATTER OF CHOICE:**

This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. Deuteronomy 30:19-20 (NIV)

Whoever sows to please the Spirit... will reap eternal life. Galatians 6:7-8

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33

3 LESSONS ON CHOOSING TO FLOURISH

**GOD'S SYSTEM FOR FLOURISHING IS
RELATIONAL, NOT TRANSACTIONAL**

The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out." John 10:3

"If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit." John 15:5

**FLOURISHING REQUIRES PARTICIPATION,
NOT PERFECTION**

Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. Philippians 2:12-13 (NIV)

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge... For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 1:5-8 (NIV)

**FLOURISH IS AN INVITATION MESSAGE,
NOT A CONDEMNATION MESSAGE!**

I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. John 10:16

START PRAYING:

Father in Heaven, thank you for the opportunity to flourish. We acknowledge that this is a simple word for a complex part of life. Help us to navigate it with grace and for your glory. Teach us to flourish as you teach us to rely more deeply on you as our true source of satisfaction in life. In Jesus' name, amen!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

START TALKING:

When you hear the word flourish, what comes to mind? How would you define it in your own words?

START THINKING:

Read John 10:1-21 aloud. What key contrasts do you notice between the Good Shepherd and the thieves and robbers and the bad shepherds/hired hands?

Looking at John 10:1-21 again, how many hints of the Gospel do you see Jesus giving? Make a list and share as a group.

Why do you think Jesus emphasizes hearing His voice so much in this passage? (See John 10:3-5, 8, 14, 16, 27.)

What do you think "abundant life" in John 10:10 means in context? How does Jesus define it?

START SHARING:

What part of this passage or the message is impacting your life most and why?

How does flourishing spiritually lead to flourishing in other areas of life?

What is the thief trying to steal from you right now? How is he trying to lead you away from the abundant life Jesus has for you?

Why is it important to understand flourishing is a choice God gives us rather than something that happens to some and not to others?

If flourishing is a choice, what small, intentional steps can you take this week to choose flourishing rather than spiritual survival?

Is there an area of your life where you've been treating your relationship with God more like a transaction than a relationship? How can you shift your perspective?

How can you intentionally combat "miserable Christianity?" What steps can you take/systems do you have in place to protect and sustain your work w/Jesus for the long haul?

Are you helping him (Satan) steal from you? Are you letting him in to rob you? (Fears, doubts, anxiety, etc.)

START DOING:

Spend a consistent designated time each day this week just being still before God, thanking Him for something good each day. Be consistent – set an alarm and a timer each day to protect that time as true quality time.