Summer Series

Metaphors for God



She's just a girl and she's on fire
Hotter than a fantasy
Lonely like a highway
She's living' in a world and it's on fire
Filled with catastrophe
But she knows she can fly away...

"Girl on Fire", by Alicia Keys

This girl is on fire
This girl is on fire
She's walkin' on fire
This girl is on fire

"Girl on Fire", by Alicia Keys

How a Metaphor Works

How a Metaphor Works

SOURCE + TARGET

"So what is a good nickname for a positive force greater than ourselves, bigger than we can imagine, way bigger than we are comfortable with, better than we can hope for, deeper than where we can fall, beyond mind and awe, where we can still also believe in geology, evolution, astronomy?"

Anne Lamott

"The best name ever is Gitchi Manitou, which means 'Great Spirit' in several Native American languages. 'Jah' is beautiful because reggae is percussive with hope. Over the decades, I've suggested many names - Ed, Bubbe, Little Tree...."

"My friend Don, who was dying of emphysema and alcoholism at the time, decided to experiment with the idea that a caring force outside himself was with him in his last months. He called this higher power his old HP. Then he began to call it his Old Hewlett-Packard. It was silly and made him smile instead of worry so much. That's a very God thing, and 'my old HP' is a great name for God."

"Saint John wrote that God is Love, that anytime you experience kindness and generosity, hope, patience and caring, you are in the presence of God. Anytime you express these, you are drawing something I would call God into the world."

Anne Lamott

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Shepherd







John 10:1-21

(Pg. 748)

"Very truly I tell you Pharisees..."

John 10:1

Israel's History of Good/Bad Shepherds

MOSES

"May the Lord, the God who gives breath to all living things, appoint someone over this community to go out and come in before them, one who will lead them out and bring them in, so the Lord's people will not be like sheep without a shepherd."

Numbers 27:16-17

Israel's History of Good/Bad Shepherds

- MOSES
- EXODUS
- JUDGES, PRIESTS & KINGS
- PROPHETS

"Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy and say to them: This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Woe to you shepherds of Israel who only take care of yourselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock?"

Ezekiel 34:2

"I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign Lord. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice."

Ezekiel 34:15-16

Israel's History of Good/Bad Shepherds

- MOSES
- EXODUS
- JUDGES, PRIESTS & KINGS
- PROPHETS
- EXILE 1st CENTURY ROMAN RULE

John 10:1-21

(Pg. 748)

"Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber."

John 10:1

"The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 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 10:2-3

"When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."

John 10:4-5

Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them. Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep."

John 10:6-7

"All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

John 10:8-10

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep."

John 10:11-13

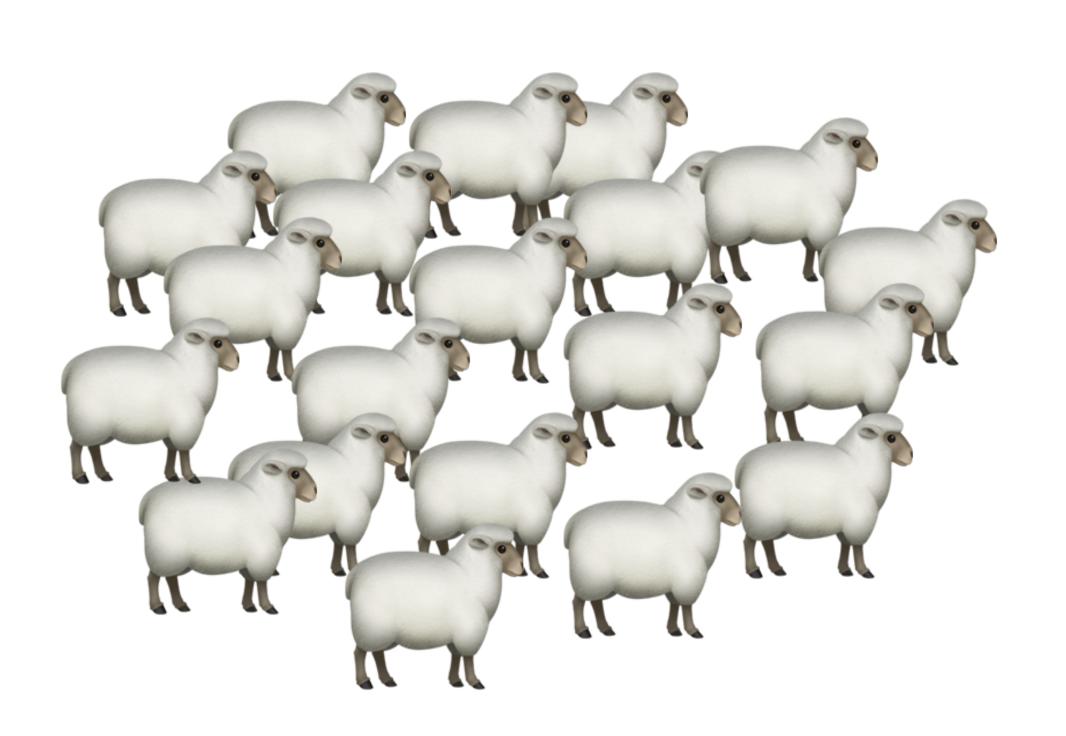
Negative forces

Thieves, Robbers & Wolves

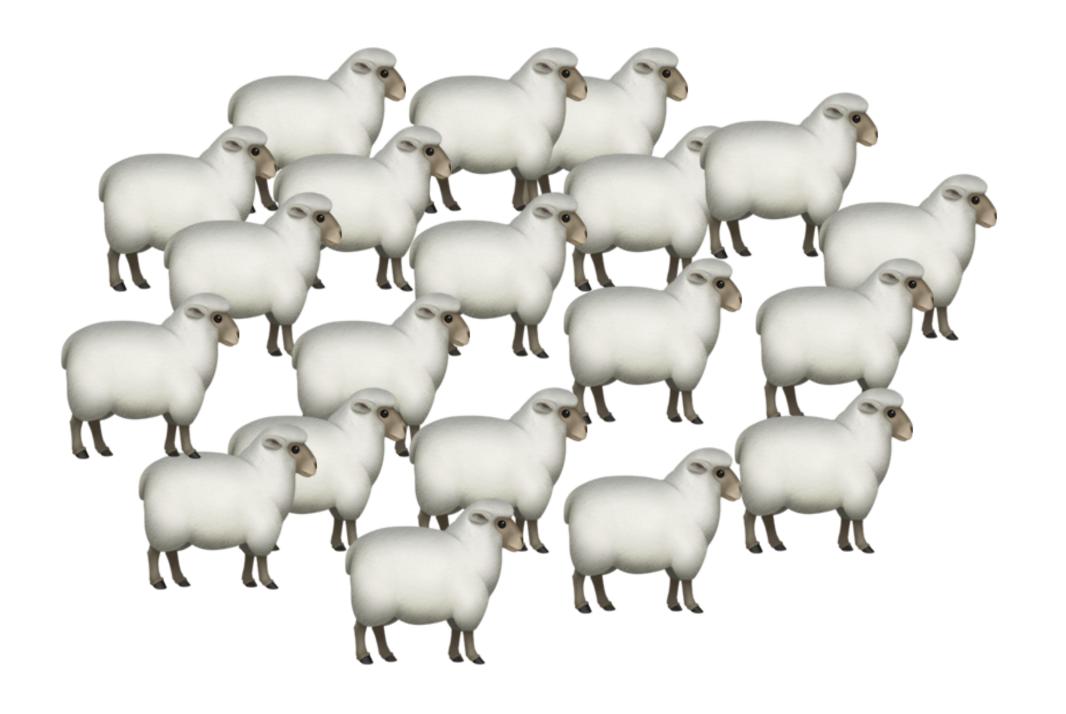
Hired Hands

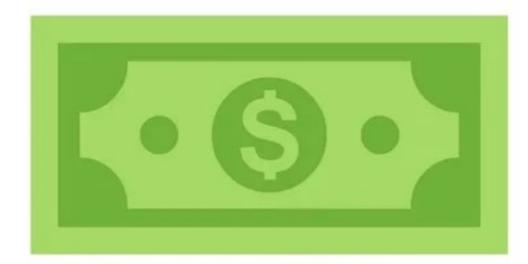
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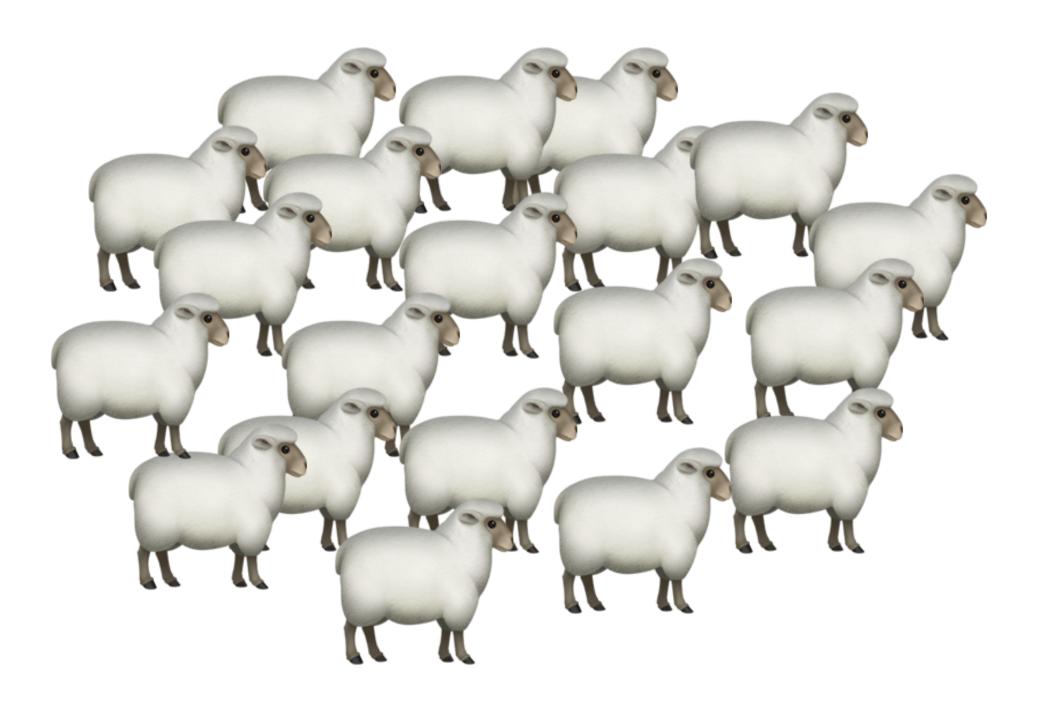
John 10:11-13



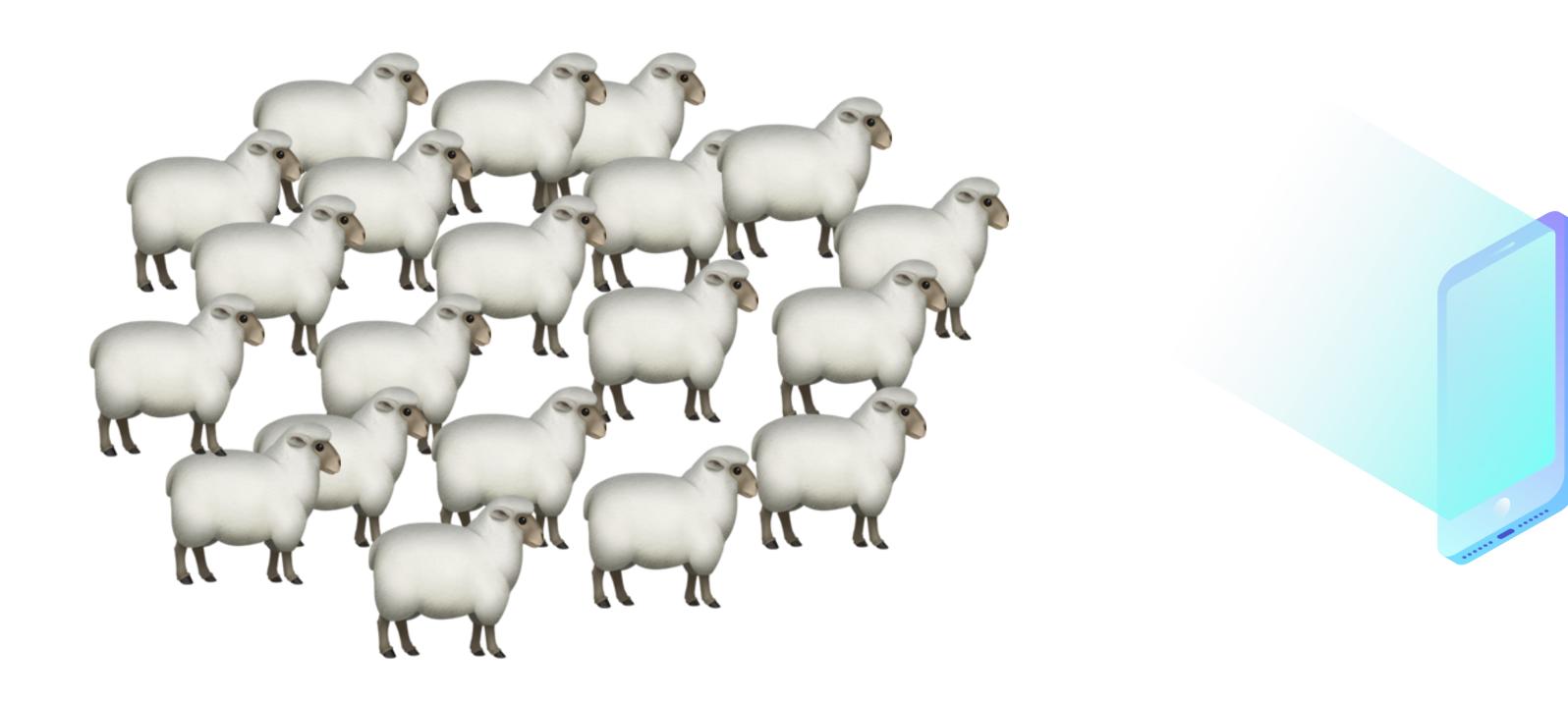












"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— just as the Father knows me and I know the Father and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd."

John 10:14-16

Psalm 23

Walk Fear Not Dwell

Walk
Fear Not
Dwell

Makes Leads Refreshes Guides Comforts Prepares Anoints Follows





A meditation app made in collaboration with Artisan Church's 'Metaphors for God' sermon series.