

A dramatic sky with sunbeams and clouds. The top of the image shows a bright blue sky with white sunbeams radiating downwards. Below this, a layer of white clouds is visible. The bottom half of the image is dominated by a dense layer of orange and red clouds, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall color palette is warm and vibrant.

Using Discernment in
CHOICES OF INFLUENCE

JOHN 10

¹ "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.

² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.

JOHN 10

³ 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.

⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.

JOHN 10

⁵ But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."

⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

JOHN 10

⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.

⁸ All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them.

JOHN 10

⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture.

¹⁰ 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

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

¹² 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.

JOHN 10

¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—

¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father--and I lay down my life for the sheep.

JOHN 10

¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life--only to take it up again.

JOHN 10

¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

A dramatic sky with sunbeams and colorful clouds. The sun is positioned at the top center, casting bright rays of light across the sky. The clouds are a mix of white, yellow, and orange, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall color palette is warm and vibrant, with a gradient from blue at the top to red and orange at the bottom.

**WE ALL HAVE INFLUENTIAL
PEOPLE IN OUR LIVES**

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A dramatic sky scene with a bright sunburst breaking through a layer of clouds, with mountains visible in the distance. The sunburst is the central focus, with rays of light extending downwards. The clouds are layered, with a thick layer of white and yellow clouds in the middle ground, and darker, more colorful clouds in the foreground. The mountains in the distance are silhouetted against the bright sky.

**THE GOOD SHEPHERD
SHOULD BE OUR LEADER**

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**THE GOOD SHEPHERD
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A dramatic sky with a sunburst effect over a sea of clouds. The sun is positioned at the top center, with rays of light radiating downwards. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a bright yellow and orange near the horizon. The clouds are dense and layered, with some appearing as a thick sea of white and yellow clouds, and others as darker, more defined clouds in the foreground. The overall scene is bright and uplifting.

OUR PROBLEM WITH SELECTING INFLUENCE

JOHN 10

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

¹² 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.

1 SAMUEL 16

⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

1 CORINTHIANS 2

⁴ My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power,
⁵ so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.

A dramatic sky with sunbeams and clouds. The top of the image shows a bright blue sky with white clouds and several sunbeams (crepuscular rays) shining down from the top center. The middle and bottom of the image are filled with a dense layer of golden-yellow and orange clouds, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall color palette transitions from cool blues at the top to warm oranges and reds at the bottom.

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A dramatic sky with sunbeams and clouds. The top of the image shows a bright blue sky with white sunbeams radiating downwards. Below this, a thick layer of white and yellow clouds is illuminated from above. At the bottom, dark, silhouetted mountains rise above a sea of orange and red clouds, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall scene is vibrant and atmospheric.

THE PROPER HANDLING OF INFLUENCE

