



# BROKEN SIGNPOSTS

**Sermon-based Guide  
for Reflection and Discussion**

## Week of October 31

**Scripture:** John 10:1-5, 9-10

**Sermon Title:** *Broken Signposts: Beauty*

### Summary:

“The fact that humans are created in God’s image points toward the overall way in which God’s sublime presence permeates the “ordinary” world throughout John’s gospel. We see this clearly in the wonderful and evocative Good Shepherd discourse in 10:1-18. You don’t have to work on a farm to sense the beauty of the image, developing as it does Isaiah’s picture of God coming to “feed his flock like a shepherd, . . . gather the lambs in his arms, . . . and gently lead the mother sheep” (40:11).”

“And it is in that overlap, that sudden realization that *truly YHWH is in this place*, as Jacob said when he woke from his dream of the ladder between heaven and earth (Gen. 28:16), that we sense the presence of the sublime: something “more” is, as we say, “going on.””

“To put it in somewhat grandiose language, the enveloping sense of the transcendent in the commonplace points to the living, loving, mysterious, and joyful Creator, who made us in his image, a little lower than the angels, in order to call us and enable us to reflect his loving creativity into his world.”

N.T. Wright, [Broken Signposts](#)

### Questions:

- 1. How much do you think an average pancreas weighs?**  
(answer: about 1/4 of a pound!)
- 2. Is there something that most people find beautiful that you just don't "get?"**  
(e.g., a hot day, classical music, Brad Pitt's face, etc)
- 3. What DO you find to be beautiful?**  
**How might you view that as evidence of a loving creator in your life?**
- 4. Discuss ideas for creating a practice of noticing (and recording) the beauty you experience? Create a plan for putting an idea into practice. Be as practical as possible!**