

The Good Shepherd



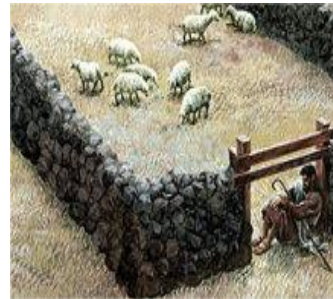
Do you know what a shepherd does?

A shepherd is responsible for taking care of sheep. There are some people who are shepherds now, but in the times of the Bible there were even more of them.

The shepherd would guide the sheep to places where they could find grass to eat, water to drink, and a place to rest. Sheep are not always terribly clever, but they learn to follow the shepherd because they recognise that he will lead them to good things.

If a wolf or a bear tries to come and attack the flock of sheep, the shepherd protects his sheep. Sometimes, the shepherd even acts as a door! The sheep would sometimes get herded into a fenced-in space together and the shepherd would lie down right in the opening.

Anything that tried to enter or leave the pen would have to come through him first. In this way the Shepherd could make sure that all of the sheep stayed safe.



**The Word – let us share the
Bible reading together.**

John 10:1-10

**Jesus said,
“I am the Good
Shepherd.”**

THE
GOD
WHO
SPEAKS

John 10:1-10 “I am the Good Shepherd”

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens.

The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers.” They did not understand what he was saying to them.

So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly

Watch this video to support your understanding of the passage

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ar732X9uO3I>

**God our Father,
Thank you for being the Good Shepherd.
Help us to listen for your voice
and to follow you and trust you.
We know you will guide us and protect us
Thank you for caring about us
Thank you for your love**

Amen



Task – Answer these questions in your exercise book

- What did Jesus mean when he said ‘I am the Good Shepherd’?
- A Bishop carries a crook or crosier, what does that symbolise?
- How are we like the sheep? What dangers do ‘people sheep’ get into?
- What lengths would Jesus go to for us?
- What or who are the thieves and the robbers in our lives; the voices that distract or draw us away from God?
- As our good shepherd, Jesus goes ahead of us and provides us with guidance. What are some ways that Christ has guided you in the past?
- How can you strengthen your relationship with Jesus?