



We Are Sheep  
Author: Annette R. Evans

## P<sub>review</sub>

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine." (John 10:14)

- So what do you know about sheep? (*encourage feedback*)

## P<sub>raise</sub>

We don't always think of sheep in glowing terms, but the writer of Psalm 100 seems happy to be a sheep. *Read **Psalm 100** aloud together.*

## P<sub>arable</sub>

Show "Characteristics of Sheep" visual <http://www.creative-sunday-school-ideas.com/support-files/characteristics-of-sheep-visual.pdf> and go over the information on it.

## P<sub>resent</sub>

Let's talk about some ways we are like sheep.

- Sheep need plenty of grass and clean water. We need the provision and peace that only our Good Shepherd can supply. Let's look at **Psalm 23:1-2**. *Read these verses from your Bible.*
  - What does "I shall not want" mean? (*I won't lack anything; I'll have everything I need*)
  - Sheep are not the most intelligent animals, and they are scared of shadows. Psalm 23 mentions shadows. *Read **Psalm 23:4** from your Bible.*



- When Jesus' sheep walk through the valley of the shadow of death, why aren't they afraid? (*because He is with them; His rod and staff comfort them*)
- What are a shepherd's rod and staff, and what are they used for? (*rod—a stick; staff—a stick with a hook on the end; these are used to fight off danger, prod sheep, and pull them back from danger*)

Jesus is with us, even (or especially) in the shadowiest, scariest, and saddest of times of our lives; therefore, we don't have to be afraid.

- Sheep are followers. Remember, they will sometimes follow whoever happens to move first. However, Jesus' sheep are not like this. Listen to these verses from John 10. Read **John 10:4-5** from your Bible.
  - What keeps Jesus' sheep from following a stranger? (*they know Jesus' voice and will only follow Him, not a stranger*)
  - How can we get to know Jesus' voice? (*by having conversations [listening and talking] with Him through prayer, reading and studying His Word, and listening to teaching and preaching of His Word*)
- Sheep are not very good at protecting themselves. We need Jesus, our Good Shepherd, to protect us. Listen to what He said in **John 10:11-12**. Read these verses from your Bible.
  - What is a hireling? (*someone hired to watch over the sheep*)
  - Why does the hireling run away? (*he sees the wolf coming, and he doesn't love the sheep like the Good Shepherd does*)
  - What does the Good Shepherd do when He sees the wolf coming? (*He protects His sheep; He even gives His life [dies] for the sheep*)

Jesus loves us—His sheep—so much that He gave His life to save us!

## **P**ractice

Sheep get stressed when separated from their flock. Remember the story Jesus told about the man with 100 sheep?



- If just 1 of the 100 sheep went missing, what would the shepherd do? (*leave the 99 and go find the 1 lost sheep*)
- What does the shepherd do when he finds the 1 lost sheep? (carries it home rejoicing, and asks others to rejoice with him)

Notice that the shepherd is not angry or scolding; he is rejoicing!

## P<sub>ray</sub>

When you need provision, peace, protection, or direction, turn to Jesus, the Good Shepherd. And when you sin, don't hide from Him. Pray. Ask Him to forgive you. He is looking for you, ready to rejoice over your return!

Let's pray right now. Let's ask for forgiveness. Let's rejoice and thank Jesus for forgiving us, loving us, and protecting us—for being our Good Shepherd.

## P<sub>lus</sub>

This week read over Psalm 23, Psalm 100, and John 10. Think about what it means to be in Jesus' flock. He has a lot of sheep, but He knows and loves each one individually: "I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine." (John 10:14)