

The Good Shepherd

Of all the animals the Lord has created, none is so helpless as the sheep. Its voice is a gentle bleat like the cry of a very tiny baby. Like a little baby, a sheep is soft and warm, all wrapped up in white wool.

Bulls, we know, have horns to fight their enemies with. Dogs have teeth to protect them. Even birds have sharp beaks. But little lambs would be lost indeed if it wasn't for their kind shepherd watching over them by night and by day. Just so the shepherds around Bethlehem kept watch over their flock by night when the Baby Lord was born.

Shepherds do not drive their flocks of sheep along. They walk in front of them, a few steps ahead, and gently call to them. The sheep know the voice of their own shepherd and follow him. Sometimes he gives them names and calls them by name. They will never follow a stranger. If they fall into a hole, the shepherd helps them up with his long crook. If the little lambs are tired, he carries them in his arms.

If any danger threatens the sheep, the good shepherd would rather lose his own life than let the sheep be injured. King David, when he was a shepherd boy, fought a lion and a bear while he was looking after his father's flocks of sheep.

The Lord is the Good Shepherd, and we are His sheep.

While the Lord was on earth with his disciples, He often used to bless little children. He wanted little children to come to him, just as much as He wanted grown people to come. For He loved little children like a shepherd loves the lambs in His flock.

The Lord's love for all people was so great that He did many miracles and wonders. He made sick people well. He even raised up some people who had died, so that He could teach them how to live to be happy forever.

There are many stories of the Lord's loving kindness and good-will that we read with care and store up in our hearts. In these stories from the Word, we are listening to the voice of our own Good Shepherd calling to us with great love and leading us on the right path of life.

