

Lesson #12

Hebrews 5:11-6:12, John 10:27-29

January 14, 2014

This morning I want to hear your best sheep noises! What does a sheep sound like? *Allow the children to "baaa" for a moment.* If you have ever spent time in the country, you may have seen a shepherd take care of his sheep. *\*Bring a picture of a shepherd and sheep. Find a book from the library with several pictures or print a picture or two from the Internet.* Do you know how a shepherd cares for his sheep?

- He feeds his sheep when they are hungry.
- He leads the sheep to water when they are thirsty.
- When the sheep are tired, the shepherd gives them rest and watches over them while they sleep.
- If a sheep is hurt, the shepherd takes care of it and even carries it.
- If a sheep is lost, the shepherd goes after to it to find it.

Does it sound like sheep can take care of themselves? Can they protect themselves for example? Or, do they need to follow their shepherd? The Bible tells us that Jesus is our Good Shepherd and we are His sheep! He loves us and cares for us like a shepherd with his flock of sheep. Listen to what the Bible says in the book of John (Jesus is talking):

“My sheep listen to My voice;  
I know them, and they follow Me.  
I give them eternal life, and they will never die;  
No one can steal them out of my hand.” John 10:27-28

Did you know that sheep recognize the sound of their shepherd’s voice? The shepherd’s voice guides them. Just like when your mom calls you for dinner. Maybe she says: “Johnny, wash your hands and come to the table. It’s time to eat!” You aren’t confused are you? Do don’t scratch you head and wonder, “Who just called me for dinner?” No! You know the sound of your mom’s voice. You know that she is the one calling you to dinner. Do you know how we listen to the voice of Jesus, our Shepherd? Some of the ways we “hear” our Shepherd’s voice is by reading the Bible and listening to our parents and teachers as they teach God’s Word to us. Jesus also speaks to our hearts when we pray. This is how He guides us and tells us how to live. But we can’t just listen to Jesus, we need to obey what He tells us, just like real sheep know to listen and obey their shepherd.

How long do you think you should listen to and obey Jesus? For one week? One year? Until you are 12 years old and then you can stop listening to Him? That would be silly, right? Once we put our trust in Jesus we get to (and need to) follow Him for the rest of our lives! He shows us how to live, He takes cares of us AND He gives us the gift of living with Him forever in Heaven.

The Bible says:

“He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to His heart...” Isaiah 40:11a

See? We can trust our Good Shepherd. He tenderly loves us. Let's stick close to our Shepherd and not wander away.

Okay, sheep, let's pray and thank our shepherd for all that He does for us:

“Dear Lord, thank you for being our Good Shepherd and taking such good care of us. Help us to listen to your voice and obey you.”

Bible Verse: “My sheep listen to my voice. I know them and they follow Me. I give them eternal life and they will never die. No one can steal them out of my hand.”  
John 10:27-28 (NIRV)

Grow At Home #12  
Hebrews 5:11-6:12, John 10:27-28 (NIRV)  
January 14, 2014

Today the children learned these God facts:

- Following Jesus means listening to and obeying Him
- Through Him we have eternal life

**Live it Out:**

Today we learned that Jesus is our Good Shepherd and we are His sheep! What does a shepherd do for his flock?

- He feeds his sheep when they're hungry, leads them to water when they're thirsty.
- When sheep are tired, the shepherd gives them rest and watches over them as they sleep.
- If a sheep is hurt, the shepherd cares for it, even carries it.
- If a sheep is lost, the shepherd goes after to it to find it.

Jesus cares for us in much the same way. Talk to your child about the ways God feeds us (not just physical food), goes after us, etc. If your child is young, hold them tenderly in your arms as you discuss our Good Shepherd. ("...He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to His heart..." Isaiah 40:11a.) Then, talk about how it is our job as "sheep" to listen to our shepherd and obey Him because He knows what's best for us and He loves us. As we follow Him, we will live with Him forever.

**Prayer:** "Dear Lord, thank you for being our Good Shepherd and taking such good care of us. Help us to listen to your voice and obey you."

**Bible Verse:** "My sheep listen to my voice. I know them and they follow Me. I give them eternal life and they will never die. No one can steal them out of my hand." Jn. 10:27-28.