

Life toward God

KIDS

daily devotions

Jehovah-Rohi: The Lord my Shepherd

Cathy May

Scripture

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me... John 10:11-14

Devotion

How much do you know about sheep? I did not know a lot about sheep and wanted to learn more about them. I found some really interesting things about sheep after researching them. I want to share them with you!

- Sheep have best friends!
- Sheep have excellent long term memories. That means they can remember as many as 50 human faces for up to two years!
- Sheep have 4 stomachs.
- You will never see a BEWARE OF SHEEP sign on someone's yard gate.
- Sheep love to hear the voice of someone familiar to them; someone they know will protect and comfort them. They will not follow a stranger's voice.
- Sheep can see behind themselves without ever turning their heads.
- Sheep cannot upright themselves. If you see a sheep on his back, please help him up because he cannot get back up without someone helping him.
- Sheep and Shepherds are mentioned 247 times in the Bible.
- Sheep stray, they don't have teeth in their upper jaw, they are clawless and they can't run fast.
- Sheep need a Shepherd in order to live.

Wow! I think that my favorite thing about sheep is that they are relational! That means they want to be around each other...they even have good friends! They can remember faces! They will respond to a familiar voice! Isn't that like us? Don't we want to be with our friends? Don't we want to be protected? Think about this for a minute.

You know your parents and your parents know YOU very well! In fact, you probably know what your parents would want you to do in any given situation. That is because you have grown up with them and you know what they would want you to do. You have spent time with them. They have cared for you and protected you and so it is with the Lord Jesus, The Good Shepherd. In John 10:11 Jesus says, "I am the Good Shepherd, the Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep". In the Bible, God refers to His people as sheep. In other words we are like sheep. We stray away, we are defenseless and helpless. We need a shepherd, a shepherd to help guide us, to protect us and to show us the gate entrance.

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In Bible times, when sheep and their shepherds were out in fields and had to spend the night there, the shepherd would lay out a circle of rocks with an opening at one end and then he would literally lay down on the ground at the opening as the “gate”. This would prevent sheep from wandering off as well as protecting the sheep from wolves or thieves who might try to enter in. How interesting then that Jesus says in John 10:7, “I am the Gate for the sheep. Whoever enters through me will be saved”. Boys and girls...Jesus IS the Good Shepherd! He is Our Shepherd! He loves us and wants to live in our hearts. He died for all of our sins and now lives in Heaven with God The Father Almighty. He died so that we may live with Him forever. He knows us, his sheep, by name. He knows everything about us and loves us just the way we are, bad things and all. He knows when we are sad, happy or lonely. My prayer for you today is if you do not know The Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, The Good Shepherd,....that you will ask Him into your hearts today.

Questions

3-5-yr-olds

Have you ever seen a sheep?
What is the person called who watches over sheep? What can happen to sheep if they wander off? Why do sheep need a shepherd?

1st-3rd graders

How are we like Sheep? Who is the Gatekeeper? How do we enter the Kingdom of Heaven?

4th-6th graders

Why does the Bible often refer to us as “sheep”? How can we know we are following the voice of “The Good Shepherd”? What does the Bible verse mean when it says “I am the Good Shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me”? John 10:14

Prayer

Heavenly Father: Thank you that You are the Good Shepherd! Thank you that we have everything we need in You! Thank you that you love and care about us and that you know us by name! Thank you for dying on the cross for our sins enabling us to live with you forever! Help us to walk ever so closely with you! We pray this in Jesus’ name...Amen.