

My Sheep Know My Voice

PRESCHOOL LESSON PLAN

Theme: Seeking and obeying God's will

Scripture: John 10:3-5

Memory Verse: My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. - John 10:27

The Children's Sermon

Hello, little ones! Today, we're going to talk about a very special story. It's about sheep and their shepherd. Do you know what a shepherd is? A shepherd is someone who takes care of sheep. They make sure the sheep are safe, find good grass to eat, and have water to drink. This story helps us understand our relationship with God. We can call it the "Sheep Shepherd Relationship."

In this story, we are like the sheep, and God is like our shepherd. Just like sheep need their shepherd to take care of them, we need God to take care of us. The Sheep Shepherd Relationship is very special because it shows us how much God loves us and wants to keep us safe.

Sheep are not very strong animals. They can easily get lost or hurt. That's why they need a shepherd. We are sometimes like those sheep. We might feel lost or scared, but we have God to guide us, just like the shepherd guides his sheep.

Now, let's talk more about the Sheep Shepherd Relationship. Imagine a big, green field under the sunny sky. This is where the sheep love to eat and play. But sometimes, they

might wander off too far or get close to danger without even knowing it. That's when the shepherd comes in. He watches over them all the time, making sure they stay safe and sound.

Sheep know their shepherd's voice. In a big field, even if there are many people talking, the sheep can hear their shepherd calling them. That's amazing, isn't it? In the same way, we can learn to listen to God's voice. Even when there are so many other noises around us, we can hear Him speaking to our hearts, guiding us through our day.

Sometimes, a sheep might fall into a hole or get caught in thorns. The shepherd doesn't get mad but gently helps the sheep out and makes sure it's okay. The Sheep Shepherd Relationship shows us that when we make mistakes or get into trouble, God doesn't get angry with us. Instead, He helps us out and loves us just the same.

Shepherds also use a staff to help guide their sheep. If a sheep starts going the wrong way, the shepherd uses the staff to gently nudge it back to the group. This is like how God gives us rules to live by. These rules aren't to make our lives hard but to keep us safe and help us be happy, just like the shepherd's staff helps the sheep.

At night, the shepherd counts each sheep to make sure they're all there. If even one is missing, he goes out to find it. This shows us how important each one of us is to God. Just like the shepherd doesn't want to lose any sheep, God doesn't want to lose any of us. We are all very special to Him.

In the Sheep Shepherd Relationship, the sheep also stick together. They feel safer when they are with their friends and their shepherd. This teaches us that being part of

a community, like our family or church, is important. We can help each other and feel God's love together.

Now, let's remember that the Sheep Shepherd Relationship is all about love, care, and guidance. God loves us so much that He always looks out for us, just like a shepherd loves and looks out for his sheep. We can trust God to guide us, protect us, and always be there for us, no matter what.

So, little ones, whenever you see a picture of a sheep or a shepherd, remember how much God loves you and wants to take care of you. And just like sheep listen to their shepherd, we can listen to God by reading the Bible, praying, and being kind to others. This is how we keep our special relationship with God strong.

Thank you for listening to the story about the Sheep Shepherd Relationship. Remember, you are loved and cared for, just like the sheep in the field. God is always with you, guiding you through every day.

Bible Memory Verse

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. -

John 10:27

You Will Need:

- 1 large poster board
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers of sheep and other animals

Get Ready:

- Cut the poster board into a large shape of a sheep.
- Write the memory verse in the middle of the sheep shape with a marker.

Do This:

1. Read the memory verse aloud with the children a few times to help them memorize it.
2. Give the children markers or crayons and let them decorate the sheep poster around the written verse.
3. Explain to the children that just like they can recognize their parents' voices, the sheep in the Bible could recognize Jesus' voice. Then, let them place stickers of sheep closer to the verse in the middle and other animal stickers further away, to show that we want to be close to Jesus and listen to His voice.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A small, simple toy sheep for each child
- A picture of Jesus as the shepherd
- Voice recording of different sounds (including a voice calling, animal sounds, and nature sounds)

Get Ready:

- Print or find a large, friendly picture of Jesus as the shepherd.
- Gather or purchase small toy sheep, one for each child.
- Create or find a sound clip compilation that includes various sounds: a voice calling, animal sounds (like birds chirping, a dog barking), and calming nature sounds (like wind or a stream). Ensure one of the voice clips distinctly says, "Follow me, my sheep."

Do this:

1. Show the children the picture of Jesus as the shepherd and explain that Jesus is like a shepherd who takes care of his sheep, and we are like his sheep.
 2. Give each child a toy sheep and tell them this sheep represents them listening for Jesus' voice.
 3. Play the sound clips you prepared. Instruct the children to hold their sheep up high when they hear the voice calling "Follow me, my sheep" among the other sounds.
- Explain that just like they picked out the shepherd's voice, we need to listen for Jesus' guidance in our lives amidst all the other noises.

Snack Activity: Sheep and Shepherd Snack

You'll Need:

- Small round crackers
- Cream cheese
- Baby carrots
- Raisins

Get Ready: Wash your hands and make sure the table is clean.

Do this:

1. Spread cream cheese on a round cracker to make the sheep's woolly coat. The cream cheese represents the safety and comfort the shepherd provides, just as God cares for us.
2. Use two raisins as the eyes of the sheep, placing them on the cream cheese. This reminds us that the shepherd watches over his sheep, just as God watches over us.
3. Cut a baby carrot into four small pieces for the legs and one small piece for the tail. Add them to your sheep cracker. This step helps us remember that the shepherd leads

the sheep where they need to go, just like God guides us in the right direction when we listen and follow His will.

Game Activity: Follow the Good Shepherd

You'll Need:

- A large space to play in (indoor or outdoor)
- Pictures of sheep and one picture of a shepherd
- Tape or sticky tack to attach pictures to walls or objects

Get Ready: Attach the sheep pictures in various locations around the play area at a low height for children to easily see. The shepherd picture should be placed in a more hidden spot but still accessible for the kids.

Do this:

1. Gather the children and explain that they are the sheep and need to listen for the Good Shepherd's call (the teacher's voice). Explain that the Good Shepherd (Jesus) knows each of his sheep by name and leads them to safety, just like in John 10:3-5.
2. Have the children close their eyes and count to ten while you hide somewhere within the play area.
3. Once hidden, call out to the children by saying phrases like 'Follow my voice, little sheep!' or 'This way to safety!' The children must then listen and seek out where the Good Shepherd (you) is hiding.
4. Once all the sheep have found the Good Shepherd, gather them and discuss how listening to and following God's will is like the sheep listening to the shepherd's voice. Emphasize the importance of obeying God and trusting Him to lead us to good places.

Craft Activity: Listening for God's Voice

You'll Need:

- White paper plates
- Cotton balls
- Glue
- Markers
- Popsicle sticks

Get Ready: Write 'God's Sheep' on the top of each paper plate before class.

Do this:

1. Give each child a paper plate with 'God's Sheep' written at the top.
2. Help the children glue cotton balls onto the plate to make it look like a fluffy sheep.
3. Once the glue has dried, assist the children in drawing a face on their sheep with markers.
4. Tape a popsicle stick to the back of the plate to make a handle.
5. Explain that just like sheep listen for their shepherd, we can listen for God's voice and follow His will.

Prayer Activity: Listening for God's Voice

You'll Need:

- A small bell or chime
- Pictures of sheep and a shepherd
- A quiet, comfortable space for prayer

Get Ready: Before the activity, hide the bell or chime somewhere in the room where it can easily be rung without being seen. Place the pictures of sheep and the shepherd around the room where children can see them.

Do this:

1. Gather the children in the quiet space and explain that just like sheep listen for their shepherd, we can listen for God's voice to know and follow His will. Tell them that today, they will practice listening.
2. Explain that you will ring the bell (God's voice) and they should listen carefully to where it sounds like it's coming from, but they should remain seated and quiet, using their listening ears.
3. After ringing the bell, ask the children to point in the direction they think the sound came from. Discuss how sometimes it can be hard to know where God is leading us, but if we listen carefully and ask for His help, He will guide us. Conclude by leading the children in a simple prayer, asking God to help them listen and follow His will every day.