

# My Sheep Know My Voice

## LOWER ELEMENTARY 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:

- Colored paper
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons

Get Ready:

- Cut the colored paper into sheep and shepherd shapes before class.
- Write 'My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. - John 10:27' on a large poster board.

Do This:

1. Give each child a paper sheep and ask them to write their name on it.
2. Have the children decorate their shepherd with markers or crayons, adding features that make it unique.
3. Explain that just as they can recognize their own sheep among the others, Jesus knows and recognizes each of us. Then, have them place their sheep near the shepherd on a table or on the floor, creating a flock following the shepherd. Discuss the importance of listening for Jesus' voice and following His guidance in our lives.

## Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A small bell or a similar sounding object
- Pictures of sheep and other animals (printed or drawn)
- Blindfolds
- A simple maze drawn on a large piece of paper or created with tape on the floor

Get Ready:

- Print or draw pictures of sheep and several other animals. Make sure there are multiple sheep pictures.
- Set up the maze on the floor with tape or lay out the large piece of paper with the maze drawn on it. Place a bell at the end of the maze.
- Place the animal pictures randomly within the maze, ensuring at least one sheep picture is near the entrance and another near the bell.

Do this:

1. **Listen for the Shepherd's Voice:** Explain to the children that in John 10:3-5, Jesus says His sheep listen to His voice, they follow Him, and they don't follow a stranger. Tell them they will pretend to be sheep who listen for their shepherd's (teacher's) voice (the bell) to find their way through the maze.

2. **Blindfolded Maze Navigation:** Blindfold one child at a time, making them a "sheep." The goal is for the "sheep" to navigate through the maze by following the sound of the bell, which you will ring from the end of the maze. The other children can watch quietly from the sides.

3. **Identify the Sheep Among Other Animals:** Once the child reaches the end of the maze, they find the bell and a picture of a sheep. Ask them to identify the animal in the picture to ensure they know they are following their "shepherd" among many other "voices."

4. **Discuss:** After each child has a turn, gather the children and discuss how they felt listening for the bell and navigating the maze. Relate this to the importance of listening for God's voice (through prayer, Bible reading, and guidance from trusted adults) and following His will, even when we can't see the path clearly.

## Snack Activity: Shepherd's Voice Cookies

You'll Need:

- Sugar cookies (pre-made or dough to bake)
- White icing
- Small candy sheep (or marshmallows as a substitute)

- Green food coloring
- Piping bags or small plastic bags
- Toothpicks

Get Ready: If using dough, bake the sugar cookies as per the recipe or package instructions and let them cool. Mix the white icing with a few drops of green food coloring to create 'grass' icing.

Do this:

1. Spread the green icing over the cooled sugar cookies to represent the pasture. Explain how the pasture is like God's will, a place where we are safe and cared for.
2. Place a small candy sheep (or marshmallow) on each cookie. Tell the children that the sheep represents them, listening for the Shepherd's voice.
3. Use a toothpick to draw a small path from the edge of the cookie to the sheep. Discuss how sometimes God's will is a path we follow, even if we can't see the whole path from the beginning. Remind them that the sheep knows the shepherd's voice, just as we can know and follow God's will by listening and obeying.

## Game Activity: Shepherd's Call

You'll Need:

- A large open space, preferably outdoors
- Several small objects to serve as 'sheep' (could be anything from toys to stones)
- Blindfolds for each child

Get Ready: Before the game begins, scatter the 'sheep' around the play area to represent how sheep might be spread out in a field. Choose one child to be the

'shepherd' and give them a blindfold. The rest of the children will be the 'voice of God' guiding the shepherd.

Do this:

1. Blindfold the child chosen to be the shepherd and spin them around gently a few times. Position them at one end of the play area.
2. The rest of the children, acting as the 'voice of God', will guide the blindfolded shepherd to the scattered 'sheep' by giving directions. They must use gentle and guiding voices, just as God guides us.
3. The shepherd tries to find and collect as many sheep as possible with the help of the voices. The catch is, the shepherd must listen carefully and follow the voice that sounds most like the 'right path' or the guidance they feel is correct. This represents listening to God's voice among many.
4. After all the sheep have been collected or a set time has passed, switch roles so that every child gets a turn to be the shepherd. Discuss how it felt to listen for the right voice and how this relates to seeking and obeying God's will, as described in John 10:3-5.

## Craft Activity: Listening for the Shepherd's Voice

You'll Need:

- A large piece of construction paper (any color)
- Cotton balls
- Glue
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors
- A printout of a sheep and shepherd (optional)

Get Ready: If you're using a printout, before the class, print out enough copies of a sheep and a shepherd for each child. If not, draw a simple sheep and shepherd on a board for the children to copy.

Do this:

1. Have each child color their sheep and shepherd. If you're using a printout, they can color directly on it. If not, they can draw their own sheep and shepherd on the construction paper using the example as a guide.
2. Next, instruct the children to cut out their sheep and shepherd. Younger children may need assistance with this step.
3. After cutting them out, the children will glue cotton balls onto their sheep to make it fluffy. While they work, explain that just as the sheep listen for their shepherd's voice, we should listen for God's voice and follow His will. The shepherd leads the sheep to safety, just as God leads us to what's good for us when we listen and obey Him.

## Prayer Activity: Listening for the Shepherd's Voice

You'll Need:

- A small bell or a phone with a bell sound effect
- Pictures of sheep and a shepherd (can be drawn or printed)
- A quiet, comfortable space for prayer

Get Ready: Set up the quiet space with the pictures of sheep and the shepherd placed where all the children can see them. Test the bell sound to make sure it's audible but not too loud.

Do this:

1. Gather the children in the quiet space and explain that just like sheep listen for their shepherd, we need to listen for God's voice to know His will. Tell them that today, they're going to practice listening for God.
2. Explain the significance of John 10:3-5, how the sheep listen to the shepherd's voice and follow him because they know his voice. Emphasize that we can also learn to recognize and follow God's voice by praying and reading the Bible.
3. Lead the children in a short prayer, asking God to help them listen and obey His will. After the prayer, quietly ring the bell to signify it's time to listen quietly for a few moments. Remind them to think about what it means to follow God's will during this time. Conclude by asking if anyone would like to share how they felt or what they thought about during the quiet time.