

FOLLOW THE GOOD SHE**P**HERD

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OVERVIEW

The central theme is the importance of listening to Jesus's voice and following Him as the Good Shepherd. Through the perspective of shepherding in Jesus's time, we are encouraged to understand how the shepherd led the flock from the front, guiding the sheep who willingly followed.

TIME FRAME

3 – 5 minutes

OVERALL TAKEAWAY

The primary objective is to encourage us to view shepherding through Jesus's eyes. In biblical times, the shepherd would walk ahead of the sheep, and the flock would follow, trusting the guidance and protection offered by their leader. This metaphor invites us to trust Jesus and follow His direction in our lives.

BIBLE REFERENCES

- John 10:25-29
- Luke 15:1-10

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TALK

Set the Screen

Do you say Baa or Maa when you do a sheep sound?

Put up your hand if you are a Baa 'er

Hands up those who are a Maa'er

Let's try – see who can baa or maa the best!!!

Sheep make both these sounds and the Shepherd may hear a lam baaing for its Mother and just check it's OK.

Jesus say's 'My Sheep listen to my voice, I know them and they follow me'

The Shepherd, Jesus, speaks and the sheep follow

Tell a Story

In Jesus's time the Shepherd went in front of the sheep and the Shepherd spoke and they listened and followed. Sometimes a musical reed based flute would be played (maybe a picture of sheep following a shepherd could be shown)

In England a Shepherd and his dogs go behind the sheep and herd them on.

Let's always have the Middle East Shepherding picture in our minds as we follow the Good Shepherd.

Go Deeper – applying what we've learnt

Jesus knows us We listen to His voice and follow.

At this service today may we especially listen out for His voice.

Jesus's voice is reaching out in love to us.

May we sense it, feel it, know it and hear it.

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BIBLE REFERENCES

John 10:25-29

My Sheep Listen to My Voice

25 Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me **26** but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. **27** My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. **28** I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. **29** My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hands."

Luke 15:1-10

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

1 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. **2** But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." **3** Then Jesus told them this parable: **4** "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? **5** And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders **6** and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbours together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' **7** I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."

CLOSE

