

A shepherd and some sheep...

Do you know what a shepherd does? That's right, a shepherd takes care of sheep! A shepherd is in charge of guiding a flock of sheep and making sure they stay safe and healthy. He (or she) finds good grass for the sheep to eat, and water for them to drink. He finds places for the sheep to sleep, and guards them at night so wild predators can't come and attack. If needed, a shepherd fights off bears or wolves or lions to keep the sheep safe. See, sheep aren't really that smart. If left alone, they might end up just wandering around without purpose. They'd get lost without the shepherd. The sheep know who their shepherd is, though. They recognise his voice and understand that they need to stay near to be cared for.

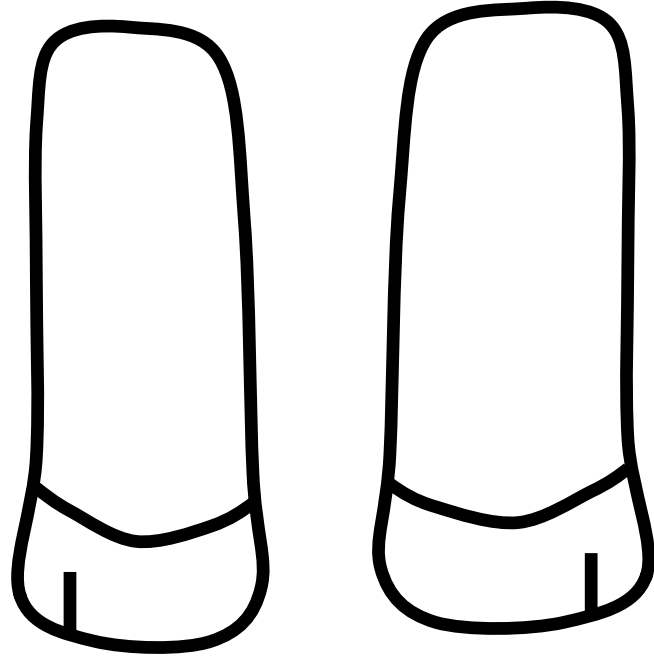
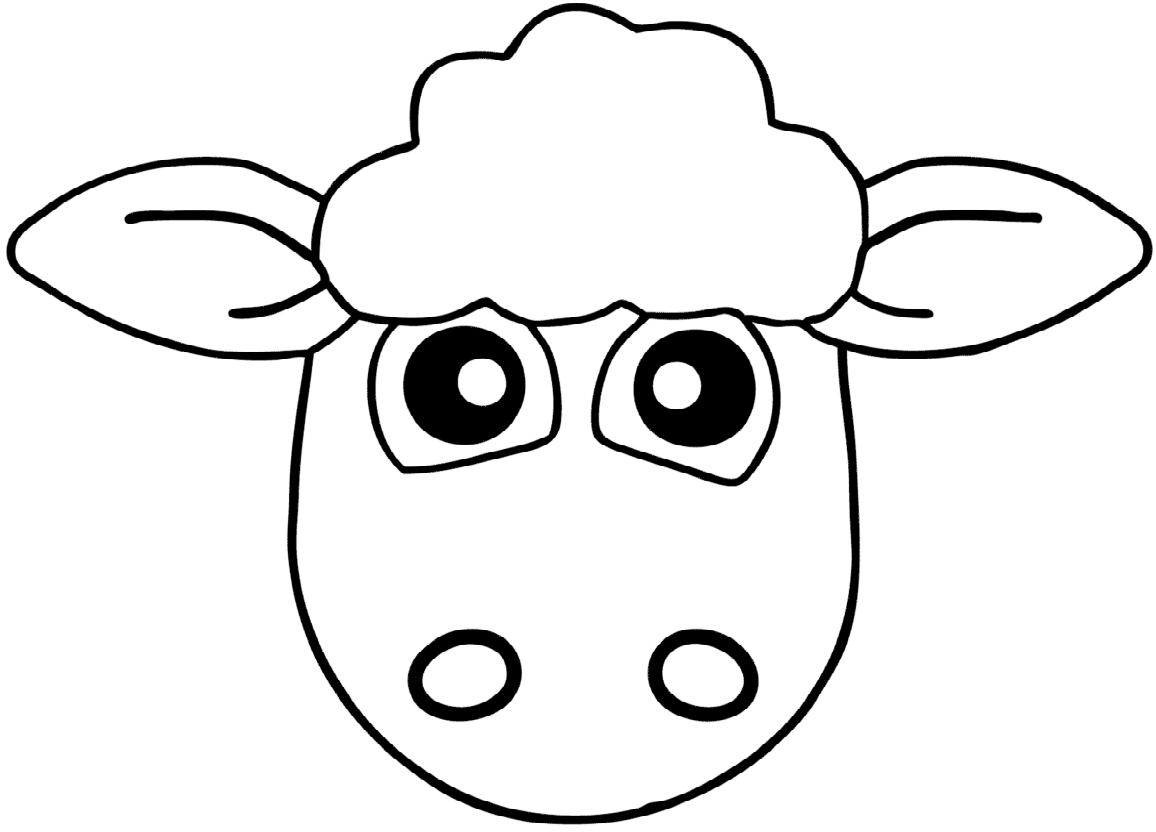
Now, you might think you don't know any shepherds. But actually, you do. You know the greatest shepherd of them all: Jesus! The Bible actually refers to sheep and shepherds a lot. In fact, there's a beautiful Psalm that describes how the Lord is a shepherd. It was written by David, who was a shepherd before he became king. He knew his sheep! He talked about how God cares for us, taking us to water and food. We don't need to be afraid when He's near, because He will protect us just like a shepherd. And Jesus Himself said that He was a good shepherd. He knows and loves us like a shepherd knows his sheep.

We are sort of like those sheep. On our own, we can't really do much! We might try to make it on our own, apart from God, but we end up stumbling around and getting lost. We need our Good Shepherd to lead us and care for us. Like a sheep follows its shepherd, we should want to follow Jesus. We can do that by reading His word, praying, and seeking to understand what He wants of us.

It might sound rough to call ourselves "sheep", but with a truly good shepherd, anything is possible! God does it all, caring for us and providing for us every step of the way!



You can remind yourself of this story by making this sheep, just print out the shapes below, colour them in, cut them out and stick together.



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