

I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD

**Memory verse: John 10:10 (ESV)**

'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.'

Key passage: John 10:10-16 (ESV)

BIG QUESTION: **WHAT DO YOU THINK IT'S LIKE TO BE A SHEEP?**

There's a fantastic story called "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe". It's great! There's a wardrobe that leads to another world, talking animals and even a lamppost that seems to light itself. One of the main scenes is where the true king of Narnia (who happens to be a lion) dies in place of Edmund the traitor. In Narnia there was an ancient law that said that the Witch was allowed to kill any traitor – scary! But, Aslan steps in and offers his life for Edmund's. The Witch accepts and the great lion is killed on the stone table. It doesn't end there though, what the Witch didn't realise was that, there was a deeper magic in Narnia. This magic said that if a willing victim died in the place of someone else, the stone table would crack and death would work backwards. Aslan would come back to life!

In Jesus' time shepherds would keep their sheep in enclosures at night. These were stonewalls with a gap for the sheep to get in. When the sheep were under attack the shepherd would stand in this gap and protect his sheep. This is what Jesus meant by being the good shepherd. He's not a hired hand that would run at the first sight of the wolf. He's the good shepherd that stands in the

gap and defends His sheep, ready even to die for them. We've all been a bit of a traitor before like Edmund, we've all made mistakes and because of that we don't deserve to be saved. However Jesus our Aslan, our shepherd, stands in the gap for us and on the cross He died for us. But just like Aslan He didn't stay dead, the power of sin was broken and He rose again.

SOMETHING TO DO

Why don't you watch *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* together?



He is the good shepherd so we should be good sheep. We should come when He calls, being obedient and letting Him lead us to find pasture. Sometimes obedience isn't easy, is it? It's not always easy to do what someone else says. But, if a sheep disobeyed the shepherd and escaped from the enclosure they could get into dangerous territory. So it's best to be like the sheep and stay close to your shepherd, Jesus. He's a good shepherd that will never harm you or stop you from enjoying your life. In fact, He wants you to have the best life, Jesus spoke about this when He said 'The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly' (John 10:10, ESV).

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

- How can you be a good sheep?
- What does it mean to have abundant life?

**PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, thank you for being the good shepherd that protects me. Amen.

