

# The Good Shepherd



Christian song writers describe Jesus' love as a good shepherd like this:

O, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God

O, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found, leaves the ninety-nine

I couldn't earn it, and I don't deserve it

You give Yourself away

O, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God,

In Jesus' time, the shepherd walked ahead of his sheep and the sheep followed him. The shepherd would have a rod and a staff with him. The rod was for protection, to frighten away any wolves or wild animals that wanted to harm the flock. The staff had a curved bit at the top so that if a sheep got stuck in a bush or down a cliff, the shepherd could pull it out.

Sheep can get into all sorts of trouble!

When Jesus spoke about sheep, he was actually speaking about people. He describes us as his sheep.

Do you sometimes get all tangled up in a problem, in frustration? And the more you try to get free, the more stuck you become?

Do you sometimes feel afraid and don't know which way to turn?

Do you sometimes feel helpless, or weak, or lost or in danger?

Aren't we all a bit like sheep?

Dear God,

Thank you that you are a good shepherd.

Thank you that you know our names and that you care for us.

Thank you that you know all the dangers we can face in life.

Thank you that you never want us to walk alone.

Amen.