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JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD



EXERCISE 1



At Christ's time two children are talking with a shepherd who is out at pasture with the sheep. Allocate roles and read the conversation.

Shepherd: Well, you two, have you come to fetch the lamb for the feast of Passover?

Boy: Yes, our father wants to have another good look at it to make sure it has no blemish, because only a flawless lamb is to be slaughtered.

Girl: Oh, the lambs are so cute! When I grow up, I also want to be a shepherd.

Boy: You? What's gotten into you? That's not for girls! You have to be tough and stay outside with the animals in all kinds of weather. That's not like you at all!

Shepherd: Don't panic! But, in actual fact, it is not always altogether safe out here. It isn't necessarily the weather that makes you a lot of trouble, because in the evening we take the animals into the folds, but wild animals often make life difficult for us. That's really nothing for girls.

Girl: Come on now! I've also got the dogs that can help me.

Boy: Put it out of your mind! I am going to be a shepherd. You can treat the wool, or make blankets or coats out of the sheepskin.

Shepherd: Well, that's not all that easy. You really have to be clever at it. But now take the Passover lamb. See the one at the back! And now run on home. Shortly I'll have to count the sheep.



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Girl: Oh, I always wanted to know about that.
Why do the shepherds count the flocks every morning and evening?

Boy: To find out if an animal is missing.

Girl: But how do you recognise the animals? After all, they look almost all the same.

Shepherd: If you are together with them every day and know them since birth, then there's no problem. A mother also knows all of her children, no matter how many there are. Besides, the sheep know my voice, just like you know your mother's voice.

Boy: Have you ever lost a sheep?

Shepherd: Oh, yes. That happened to me last year once.
In the evening I was missing one sheep. I looked for it for three hours before I found it.

Girl: Oh my goodness! Why did you do that? For a single sheep?
After all, you have so many!

Shepherd: You won't understand that yet. But when one is missing, I'm not at peace, because I'm responsible for the flock.



EXERCISE 2



Careful! Something is not quite right here! Replace the sentence fragments in bold type with the correct text.

My sheep hear **eternal life**,
neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand,
and they **shall never perish**:
And I give them **My voice**;
and they **follow Me**,
and I know them.
(John 10:27–28).

This is how it should go:

Discuss this Bible verse and its significance for us!