

# JESUS Knows His Sheep



## Jesus said:

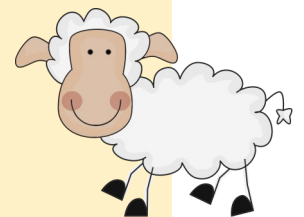
“My sheep hear my voice;  
I know them, and they follow me.  
I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish.  
No one can take them out of my hand.  
My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all,  
and no one can take them out of the Father’s hand.  
The Father and I are one.”

## 1. EXPLORE

In contextual reading, the Feast of Dedication that the reading is from is an eight day festival of lights, where Jesus roams and is confronted by Jews gathered asking if he’s truly the Messiah, just say so. It’s through this reading we see Jesus speaking about the flock He oversees. We understand that it is God that gives and asserts unity of power and reveals that the words and deeds of Jesus are the words and deeds of God. Jesus doesn’t need to outright say anything, those who are in his flock, those who choose to follow will simply know, follow, and obey.

## 2. CONNECT IT!

Parents are easily the most recognizable shepherds in our life. They’re the ones that endure anything and everything we do as we grow into adults, being there for all our joys, and all our falls. Many youth tend to forget the hardships of our parents understand and are responsible for when their children are faced with actions that displease them or feel they’re being treated unfairly. Are you able to shoulder their responsibilities when you feel you can do a better job? Being a shepherd, whether for others or for your own self, requires much more than being able to act on your own, it’s knowing your limits, experience, and ability to protect.



### 3. REFLECT

The theme of shepherds and sheep is a recurring one in the bible. In the Old Testament, God is sometimes portrayed as a shepherd. Being one is not an easy job; sheep are pretty defenseless, and shepherds have to protect them from predators like lions and wolves. Sheep also have a tendency to stray from the flock, making them especially vulnerable. Shepherds endure the hardships of being away from their homes and putting up with simple food and harsh weather while

pasturing sheep. Their lives can be endangered when confronted by desperate predators. Sheep learn to recognize their shepherd's voice, which makes it easier to separate different flocks when flocks are mixed together for grazing or protection.

- How do you relate to Jesus as the good shepherd?
- When is it reassuring to know that Jesus is watching out for you?
- How do you see yourself helping to shepherd other people as a follower of Jesus?

### 4. REMEMBER IT!

"MY SHEEP HEAR MY VOICE; I KNOW THEM, AND THEY FOLLOW ME."  
(LUKE 10:27)

### 5. LIVE IT! [ RESPONSIBILITY ]

To be accountable, having duty, and at times having an opportunity or ability to act independently.

Have you ever had the responsibility like shepherds do, like leading teams at your youth chapter or maybe in your school project? What was it like being someone with a variety of duties, to be accountable for the group to make sure everyone was taken care of? Write about an experience each night and be ready to share when asked!

### 6. PRAY IT!

Lord grant us the mental strength to understand the responsibility of being a good shepherd for You. To be holy in Your light and to lead with courage and confidence in the face of uncertainty and adversity. Amen.