

CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Lesson XII.

John 10: 1-16.

March 19, 1899

Golden Text—"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep."
—John 10: 11.

Catechism—20. What does God do for you? God takes care of me, and gives me all the good things of life.



THE LESSON STORY

Jesus used to like to be out of doors with His disciples, and He often talked to them about what they saw around them.

One day they were talking about sheep and sheepfolds. A sheepfold is the place where sheep



stay at night. It is something like a small field with a high fence round it, and it has only one door. A man called the porter stays beside the door all night to see that nothing gets in which would hurt the sheep. If the porter saw any one trying to climb up over the wall he would know that he was a thief or a robber, who only wanted to kill and destroy the flock.

In the morning the shepherd comes to the fold and the porter opens the door at once. The sheep are glad to see him, and they know his voice. They know their own names, too, and they follow the kind shepherd, who shows them where to find the best pasture.

Sheep are shy, and do not like strangers, and if they hear some one calling them whose voice they do not know they will run away.

A good shepherd is very fond of his own sheep, and will even risk his life to save them from danger.

Sometimes men are hired to take care of sheep, but they do not love them and watch over them as the shepherd does. If they saw a bear or a wolf coming they would run away and leave the sheep to take care of themselves.

Jesus said, "I am the good Shepherd and know my sheep and they know me."

He meant that He is able to take care of His people, just as a shepherd cares for his sheep, and that, if they listen to His voice, He will tell them where they must go and what they ought to do.

He said, too, that He loved His sheep so much that He would give up His life to save them.

Jesus called Himself the "door of the sheep," because He is the only way by which people can get into His Father's heavenly fold.

Jesus says that that sheepfold is so large that there is room enough in it for everybody in the world who wants to be in His flock, and who is willing to follow the Good Shepherd.

If we follow the Good Shepherd He will always lead us in the light.