

and not to please Jesus. The sin in the heart must be taken away, and Jesus took it all on himself, so as to take it away from us, when he died on the cross. Could the Good Shepherd have given his life for the sheep unless he loved them very much? O, never, never. It was love that made him do so much long ago, and it is love that makes him do so much now. He never forgets us for a moment, but watches and loves and leads us always if we will but follow.

*Hear his voice.* See on the board a sheep-fold and the shepherd leading out the sheep. They hear his voice and follow. They could hear and follow even in the dark by keeping close. We will write, "Hear his voice," in our lesson column. To have Jesus speak to us and lead us and to follow him is just to ask him what to do and then to find out from his words in the Bible, or by the feeling he gives us in our hearts, what is right and to do as he says.

Can little lambs hear and follow? Yes. He will even carry them, which means that he will keep them very close if they will let him. Will you?



### For the Youngest Children.

**GOLDEN TEXT:** "The good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep."

*Point of contact.* The helplessness and ignorance of a baby.

*Approach.* Some animals can take care of themselves and find their way about, even when they are very little, but sheep cannot.

*Lesson story.* General description of sheep and shepherd life.

*Impression.* Children need a wise guide.

*Expression.* A desire to have the care and guidance of Jesus the Good Shepherd.

How many of you have a baby brother or sister in your house? When the baby begins to walk will you want him to go out in the street alone? Why not? Of course, because he would not know the safe places to go and could not take care of himself. Perhaps mother will ask you to watch him because you are older, and if she does, you will wish to take very good care of him, will you not? How many of you have a kitten at home? A kitten does not seem very wise, does it? But I know about a kitten that was taken a long way from its home and found its way back over a road it had never been on before. God had made it wise enough to take care of itself in that way, and dogs and some other animals know more even than cats.

[Show picture of sheep, and find out what the children know about them.] Have you ever seen any sheep? They are a great deal larger than kittens, and bigger than many dogs, and yet they cannot take care of themselves. They do not know how to find their own way about, so they need some one to guide them; they are not strong enough to fight against bears and wolves and lions, which often try to kill sheep, so they need some one to protect them; they must have food and water every day, so they need a kind and wise shepherd to lead them where the grass grows thick and long, and where they may have a drink when they need it. Then at night they need a shepherd to put them in the fold, where, with a high wall all around them and the door shut tight and locked, no harm can come to them in the darkness. In the morning the shepherd will open the door and call his sheep. He has names for them all, and calls each one by name. They know his voice, and when they hear it follow gladly; but if a stranger were to open the door and call, they would not go, because they do not want to follow anyone but their own loving shepherd.

Jesus once said, "I am the good shepherd." He meant that the way that he takes care of all the people in the world who obey him is a good deal like the way a good shepherd takes care of his sheep. The grown people are like the sheep in a flock, and the children who love him and want to do as he says are like the little lambs. What does the Good Shepherd do for his little ones? He is very wise, and knows always what is best for them, so he is sure to lead them in