

Jesus says "I love you" by caring for us

Jesus watches us day and night. When one of us gets lost, He goes and finds us and brings us back in. He fights for us like the shepherd fights off wolves from the sheep.

Watch this little video animation for a reminder of the story:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tyWZeOlaRo4>

David's psalm about the Good Shepherd is an excellent example of how Jesus loves us.

*The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.*

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 23

Some of you know this Psalm very well, because we sing it together in worship.

God didn't create us to be alone, as a matter of fact He created us to be in fellowship with others. As the good Shepherd he makes sure that no one wanders out of His presence. He keeps us in the fold. He takes the hook of His rod and pulls his wandering sheep back.

A good shepherd spends time with dirty and stinky sheep. He cares for them through the long, dark nights and keeps them sheltered from storm. Jesus is right there with us in the darkest places. Patiently he waits for us to look up and reach out our hands to Him. This is true love.

A prayer to share and reflect upon.

Lord, I do not know what it is like to be a sheep but I do know what it is like to need a shepherd: to feel that someone cares, to know there is someone who will listen to me - someone I can trust; someone who understands me and wants the best for me. Lord, I can be stubborn like a sheep and I can be afraid and I can be vulnerable. Please meet me where I am today in all my hopes and longings and be my good shepherd.

Amen.