



Charity No 251394

# God's Storyteller



## February 2021

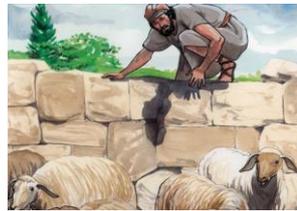
Do you like to read, or listen to, stories? Most people do. In the past, when very few people could read or write, storytelling was a way of learning about your history, your faith and the legends of your land. Jesus was a great storyteller and he often used them to help the people to understand his message from God. One of his most famous was about a Good Shepherd.



In those days there were no fields to keep your sheep in, so every day the shepherd had to lead his flock to find good grass to eat. Every night he would bring them back to the sheepfold, a circle of stones with just one entrance where the shepherd would sleep to guard his



flock. He had to protect them from thieves, and wild animals such as wolves and mountain lions.



It could be a dangerous life but the Shepherd always cared for his flock.

One day Jesus was talking to a large crowd of people and among them were some men who were thought to be bad people. Others in the crowd began to grumble that Jesus allowed these men to mix with them. So Jesus decided that he needed a story to explain why everyone was welcome to come and listen to him.

The story Jesus told was of a Shepherd who had one hundred sheep. Through the day he kept a careful eye on them to see that they didn't stray. In the evening he would lead them back to the fold, but he didn't have a sheepdog as he might have had today, so it was difficult to watch them all on the way home. One evening, when he reached the sheepfold, he counted each sheep as it went through the narrow entrance. "Ninety-five, ninety-six, ninety-seven, ninety-eight, ninety-nine....." O where was sheep number one hundred! He had lost one. What should he do? Should he forget about it and stay to protect the ninety-nine sheep who were safely in the fold? Or should he go to look for the lost one?

He goes to look for the one that was lost until he finds it and brings it home on his shoulders. Then he calls all the other shepherds together to celebrate that he has found the one that was lost. "I am that Shepherd.," said Jesus. "I came to find those who are lost – who have turned away from God– to bring them back to a right way of living."



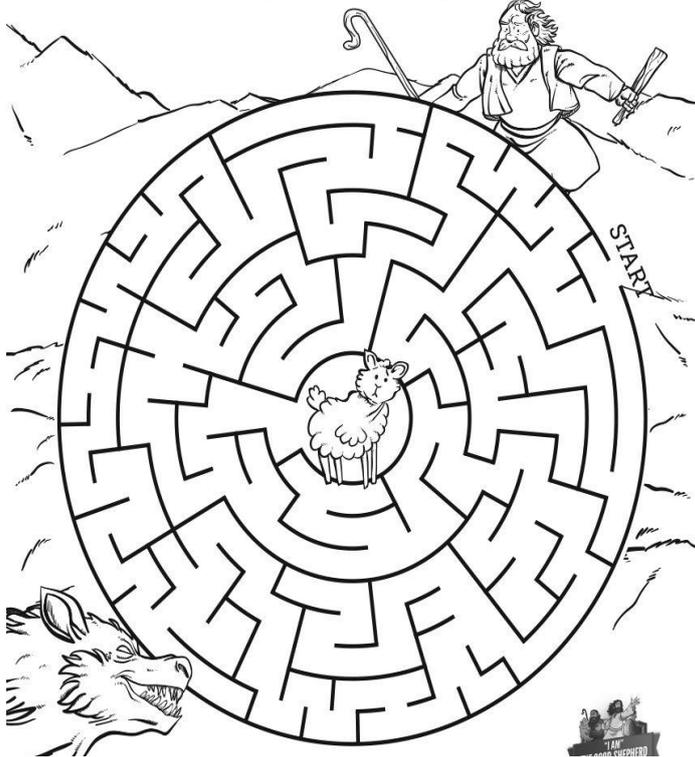
Find some "Lost Sheep" activities on the next page.





**“I AM”  
THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

Protect the sheep before the enemy reaches them.



**Make a Woolly Sheep.**

Copy or cut out the picture below and stick on pieces or balls of cotton wool.

