Day 19
Good Shepherd

*I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. John 10:11*

A shepherd looks after sheep. We never hear that Jesus goes out into the fields and looks after those woolly four-legged animals. So, what is he talking about?

We need a bit of background. In the Old Testament God talked about himself as being a shepherd to his people, whom he called his sheep. This image contained lots of ideas about the way he cared for them.

As well, God told the leaders of the nation to be shepherds of his people. But many didn’t care about the people at all. In fact, it got so bad that God made a promise. He would send a special shepherd who would take care of God’s people in a way that made God very happy.

Can you think of some of things that a good shepherd might do to care for sheep? He would make sure they had water and food. He would take care of any who were injured or hurt. He would search for any who were lost. He would protect any who were in danger.

John chapter 10 tells us about the sheep who belong to the good shepherd. They know his voice and they follow him. They know that he is their shepherd.

Jesus says he will lay down his life for the sheep. He is talking about his death on the cross for us. This is the place where Jesus protected his sheep from their biggest danger. The biggest danger came from the dark powers that were trying to keep us from being part of God’s family.

Do you know Jesus as your good shepherd? If you do, then keep listening to his voice and following him.