

The
Good
Shepherd
John 10:11-18



Who are the Sheep in the Scriptures?



**All of
God's
Children**

Sheep are Helpless



**Sheep are
mentioned over
1,000 times in the
scriptures**



**Sheep need full
time supervision**



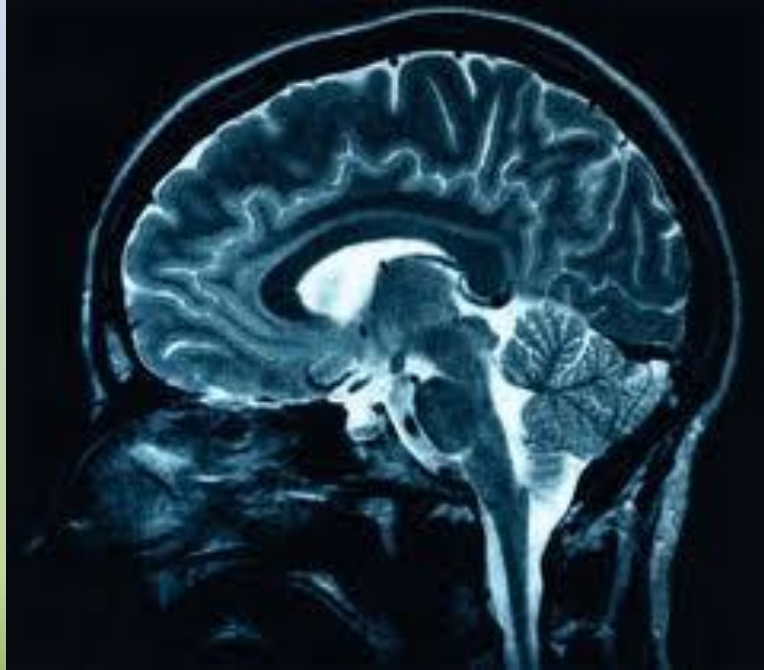
**Sheep are not easily trainable—they
don't learn well from mistakes**

**They go astray from
the shepherd's care
and get into trouble**



Sheep don't remember well

How well do you learn from mistakes?



Do you allow God to train you?

Sheep are Fragile and Defenseless



***“Cast thy burden
upon the Lord,
and he shall
sustain thee....”***

Psalms 55:22

Weak & Helpless

Their backs are weak



**You will never see
one hitched to a
wagon or carrying a
load on its back.**

Sheep are not burden-bearing animals



*“For my yoke is easy,
and my burden is light”
Matthew 11:30*



*“Cast thy burden upon
the Lord, and he shall
sustain thee....”
Psalms 55:22*

**They are completely defenseless---
no claws or horns.**



Sheep require constant help from the Shepherd.

How helpless are you in the world?

Can you defend yourself on Satan's turf without help?

Can you save yourself?



Sheep need “Living Water”

“....he leadeth me beside the still waters.”

Psalms 23:2



Sheep are afraid
to drink from
running water

Sheep need still water, but fresh, pure water from a spring

**Shepherds are concerned
everyday with finding “still
waters” from a natural
spring or “living water.”**



Hebrew word for 'still waters'

**–menuchot meaning
motionless waters**



**Sheep know they cannot
swim in a swift current
because of their heavy fleece.**

Waters---Revelation



Purest spiritual water---
Scripture, “living prophets”



Sheep Ruminates = to ponder or meditate



**Sheep eat
by chewing their cud
over and over again**

***"And I will give you [shepherds] according to mine heart,
which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding ."***
Jeremiah 3:15

Do you read your scriptures or do you meditate?



Scriptures---spiritual food

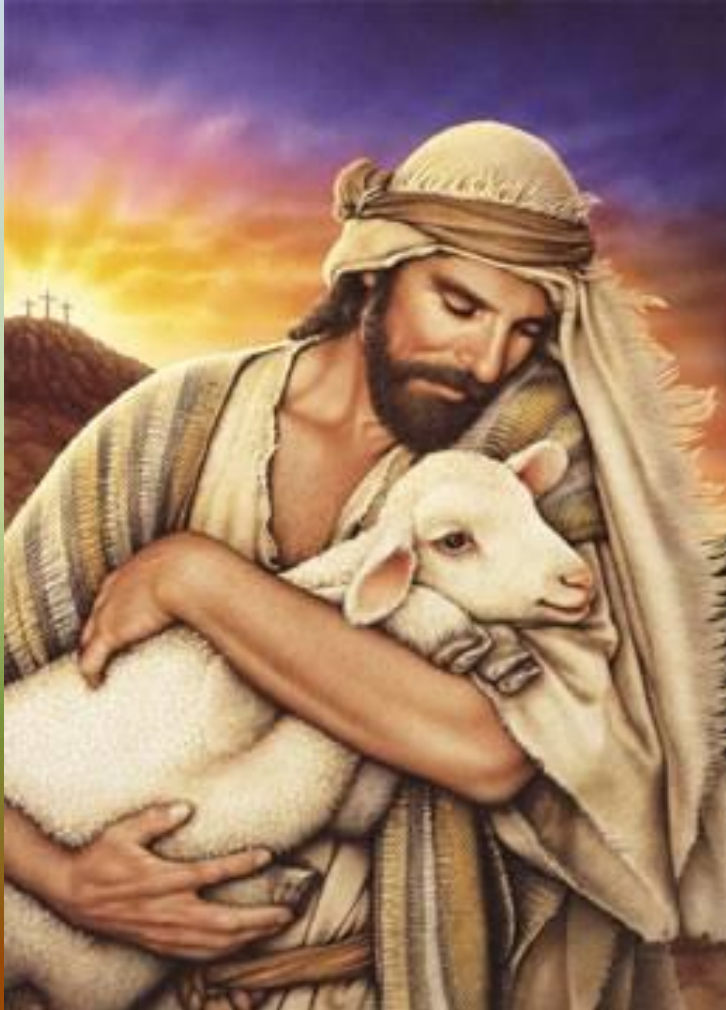
The nourishment gained from our spiritual food will not be obtained by one quick chewing but pondering and reading them over and over---everyday



*"This is good doctrine.
It tastes good. I can taste the
principles of eternal life, and
so can you."*

--Joseph Smith

Sheep Need Daily Physical Touch



“And they brought young children to him...and he took them up in his arms.”

Mark 10:13,16

Early in the morning the sheep would form a grazing line and keep the same position throughout the day



At some point in time the sheep leave the line and search for shepherd.

The shepherd receives the sheep with outstretch arms...



...The sheep would rub against the shepherd's leg, or if the shepherd were seated, rub its cheek against His face.

Meanwhile the shepherd would gently pat the sheep, rubbing its nose and ears and scratching its chin...



...After a brief period the sheep would return to its place in the grazing line.

Christ touches you through the Holy Ghost. Are you keeping yourselves worthy to feel His touch every day?



Sometimes His touch can make us aware of the difference between who we are and who we should be.

Sheep need to be Anointed

*“.....thou anointest
my head with oil.”*

Psalms 23:5

To preserve
and to heal and
keep them from
sunstroke



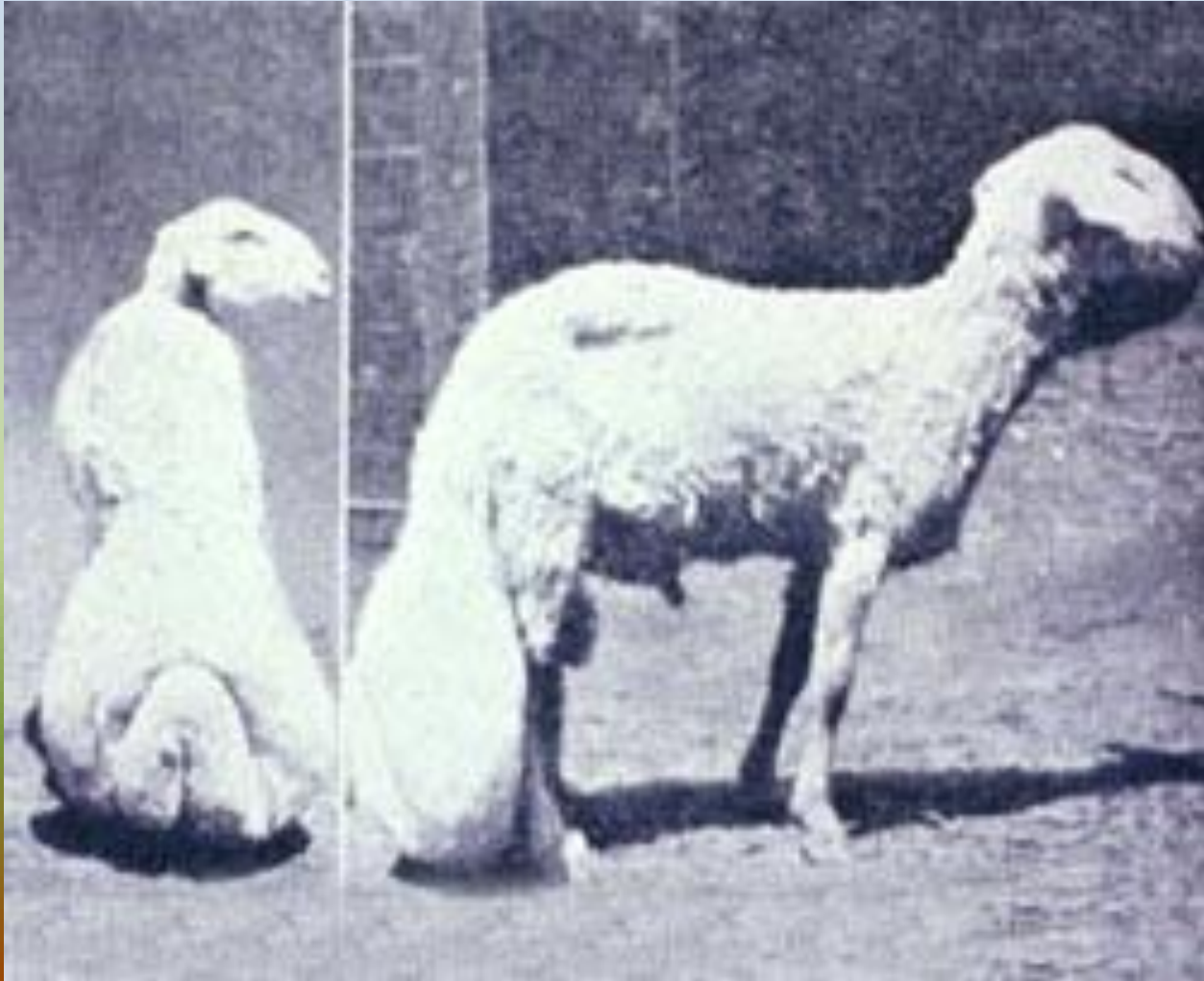
Anointed and blessed by Priesthood



**God's way to preserve us or set
apart from the world or to heal us**

Read James 5:14

Fat-tailed Sheep



**One type of sheep
was raised for its tail,
which is a delicacy.**

*“Woe unto them that draw iniquity
with cords of vanity, and sin as it
were with a cart rope.”*

Isaiah 5:18

Sheep and Pride

"The wicked, through the pride of their countenance, will not seek after God."

Psalm 10:4

Shepherds fatten these sheep up and tie a cart on them so that their tails rest and gain about 30-40 lbs.



Pride—Carrying around burdens of sins or...



**...thinking of what we want first.
Satan will use that to destroy us**

Sheep must be sheared

*"....as a sheep
before her shearers
is dumb...."*
Isaiah 53:7



**Vision can be
impaired if not
sheared**

“Pulling the wool over our eyes”



Sin does the same to us.

**It weighs us down, holds us
back and blinds us to God.**



Submit to the Shearer



“Be thou humble; and the Lord thy God shall lead thee by the hand, and give thee answer to thy prayers.”

D&C 112:10s

“Be Thou Humble in Thy Weakness and the Lord Thy God shall lead thee...” Hymn 130



Sheep are Vulnerable

*"I will not leave you comfortless: I will
come to you."*

John 14:18

*A Shepherd is careful to
keep them warm and
comforted.*



We are Vulnerable

Without alcohol an alcoholic feels afraid.

*Without our boyfriend or girlfriend we
might feel lonely.*

*Without pornography you might feel
depressed.*



*When we repent and forsake our sins it is hard at first.
That is when we most need to have the comfort of the Holy Ghost.
He is always with us when we are humble.*

Sheep can be “Cast Down”

“He restoreth my soul....”

Psalms 23:3



....Yea, though I walk
through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I will fear not evil:
for thou art with me.”

Psalms 23:4

Helpless

**If they get off balance they fall
onto their backs (casting down)
they are helpless.**



“Their undersides are exposed to the
sun—gas develops—swelling---cuts off air
supply and then death.

Restoring

To restore a cast-down
sheep take time



The shepherd massages its
tummy and legs.

One foot on the path and the other in the great and spacious building?

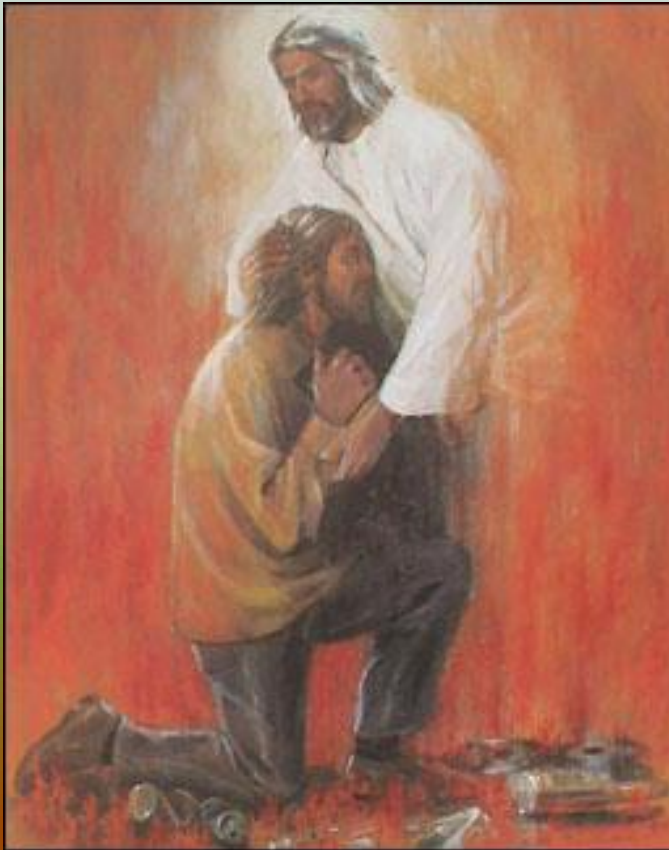
**If we try to live in the
world we will get off
balance and fall.**



The world can cause spiritual death

Calling on the Savior for help

He will be there to
restore us



Restoration of a son or daughter of
God is a process, but it is one of the
most satisfying things the Savior does

He-Goats Represent the Priesthood

Horns are a symbol of Power



***“Remove out of
the midst
of Babylon,
and be as the
he -goats before
the flock.”***

Jeremiah 50:8

Helping us find our way

**Worthy Priesthood
holders:**

Prophets

Stake Presidents

Bishops

Fathers



Pascal Lambs---Passover Shepherds



*These are they that are there
at the birth of the lambs to
choose the firstborn male
without blemish*

*Then taken into the shepherd's
homes to live with the family
for days before their sacrifice*

*"My son, God will
provide himself
a lamb....."*

Genesis 22:8

Sleep with the children and are feed by them, and named by them



They are then taken to the temple by shepherd and his family and ritually killed.



*This taught the children the cost of sin—
the life of innocence*

Our sins caused the suffering and of Christ

***Even in the
preexistence***



***Jesus has
paid for all
our sins and
all our sins
yet to be.***

Judas Sheep

"....he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter...so he openeth not his mouth."

Isaiah 53:7



A large castrated male sheep is trained to lead the sheep up ramps to the "killing floor" of the slaughter house so they won't be nervous.



The sheep are unaware and follow blindly. Once up the top, the trap door is opened for the “Judas Sheep,” and he trots away, and back down to the bottom pen area to lead another group of sheep to their destiny.



Allegiance—who leads your life?

*Be careful who you follow
Many times we follow worldly
friends or pop culture---who
lead us to sin.*



Definition of a Good Friend

**Someone who helps you keep the standards
of the Church—John Bytheway**



*Following the “he goats” (priesthood)
instead of worldly friend.*

Life and Death

***At lambing time:
If sheep have a difficult
labor they die.***

***Shepherds end up with
Ewes without lambs and
lambs without mothers.***



***“Washed white through the
blood of the Lamb.”
Alma 13:11***



Nurturing

A Ewe will not nurture another ewe's baby. The Shepherd takes one of the lambs that died and cuts off their skin, making sure some of the blood is still on the skin.



**He puts the skin on the motherless living lamb.
The ewe accepts it as her baby because she
recognizes the smell of the blood.**

Alienated from God---

Spiritual death---because of sin



1 Nephi 15:34
**..and there cannot any
lean thing enter into the
kingdom of God..."**

**Christ provided his flesh and blood to cover us
symbolically so that God will symbolically
recognize us as His lambs.**

**Hebrew word for Atonement---Kafar.
Meaning to protect, surround, and to cover.**



**Christ's Atonement –his blood– symbolically
covers our sins and we become clean again and
acceptable to Heavenly Father.**

What does it mean to be a Good Shepherd?



Pharisees

Self-righteous Keepers of the Law

How did the Pharisees (the World) view Shepherds?

*“He that entereth not by the Door
...but climbeth up some other way,
the same is a thief and a robber.”*

John 10:1



*They thought the Law
could save them*

World View of Priesthood leaders:

***Misguided
uninformed
Old-fashioned
Controlling
Blind followers***



*To be a Good Shepherd you
need to not worry what the
World thinks of you*

Shepherds are Peaceful

**Sheep's wool won't grow
if they are stressed**

Sensitive

**Best profession to teach a man
how to nurture others**

Shepherdesses

**Women were Shepherds too
Rachel and Rebekah**



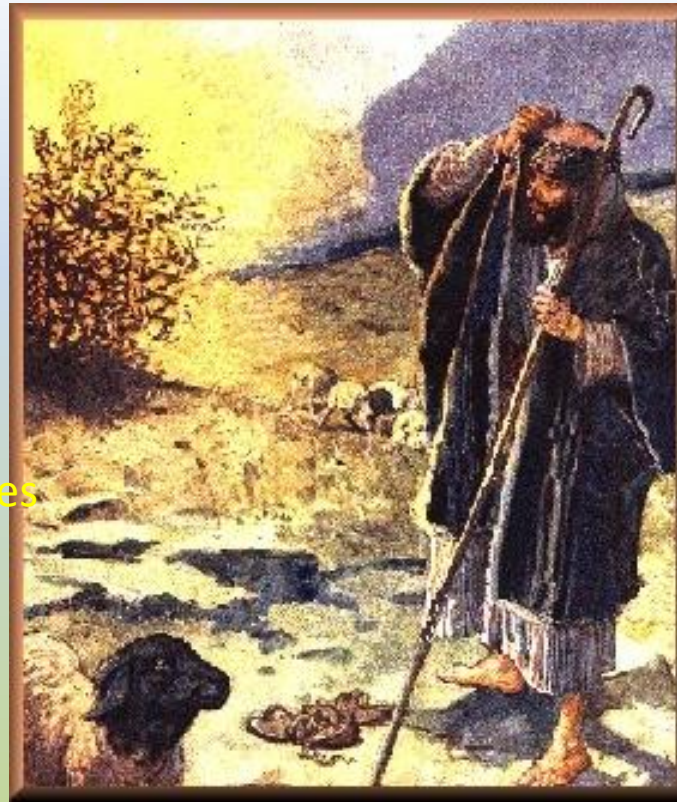
One with their Sheep

*A good shepherd always
smelled like his sheep*

Joseph



Moses



*Great
leadership
lessons
learned*

David

All Patriarchs
*were shepherds
for part
of their lives*



Receiving callings at age 12



Learning how to Shepherd a flock.

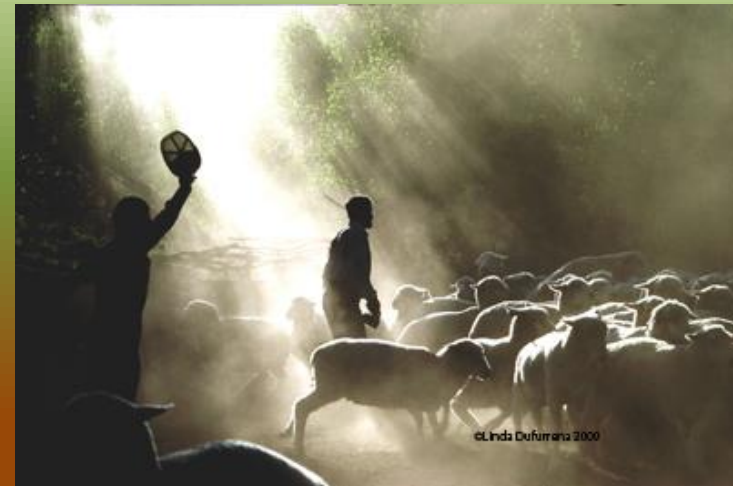
Sheepherders vs. Shepherds

"...the sheep follow him: for they know his voice."

John 10:4



**Sheep recognize
their Shepherd's
voice and not that
of a stranger**



What happens without a Shepherd?



*"And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him:
for they know not the voice of strangers." John 10:5*

Shepherd's Rod



*"Thy rod and
thy staff they
comfort me."*

Psalms 23:4

Used to defend sheep against predators.

God's Rod



*“The Rod...
was the word
of God.”*

1 Nephi 11:25

The Word of God is
our greatest defense
against our enemies

Shepherd's Staff

**More than 6 ft. tall—a
lamb can see it.**

At night the shepherd taps
the rocks with his staff to
assure them he is near.



***“....thy staff be
my stay.”***

With a crook the shepherd will
encircle the neck of the sheep,
or the chest of a small sheep
and lift to safety.

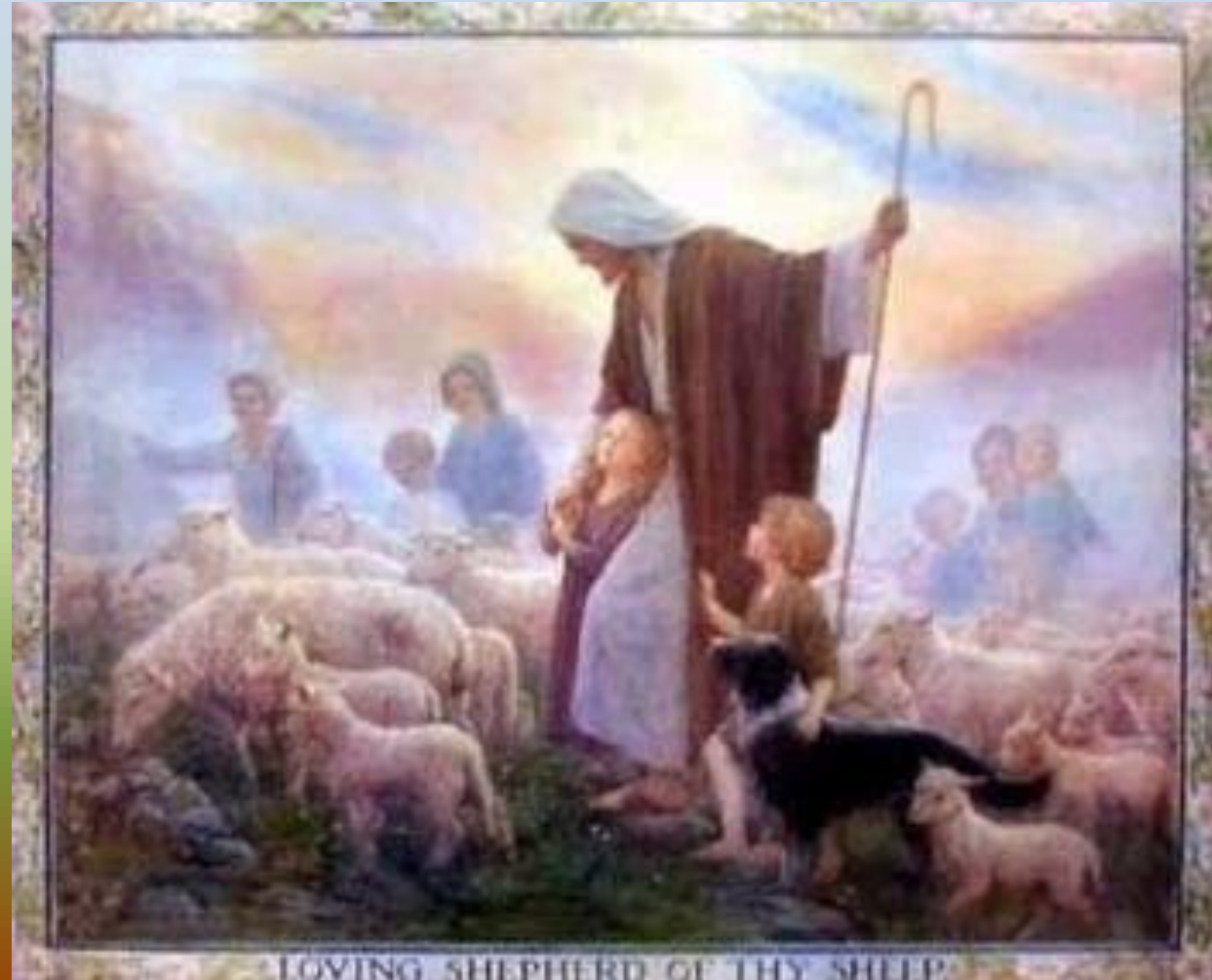


**If sheep dropped over
a cliff the shepherd
turns the staff upside
down and coos along
the length in a quiet
voice to calm them
then pull them to
safety with the crook.**



Staff—Christ's mercy and tender guidance toward us

We need to remember we worship a Savior whose greatest attribute is his deep love and mercy for us.





The Shepherd loves
his sheep individually

"One by one..." 3 Nephi 17:21

Courageous

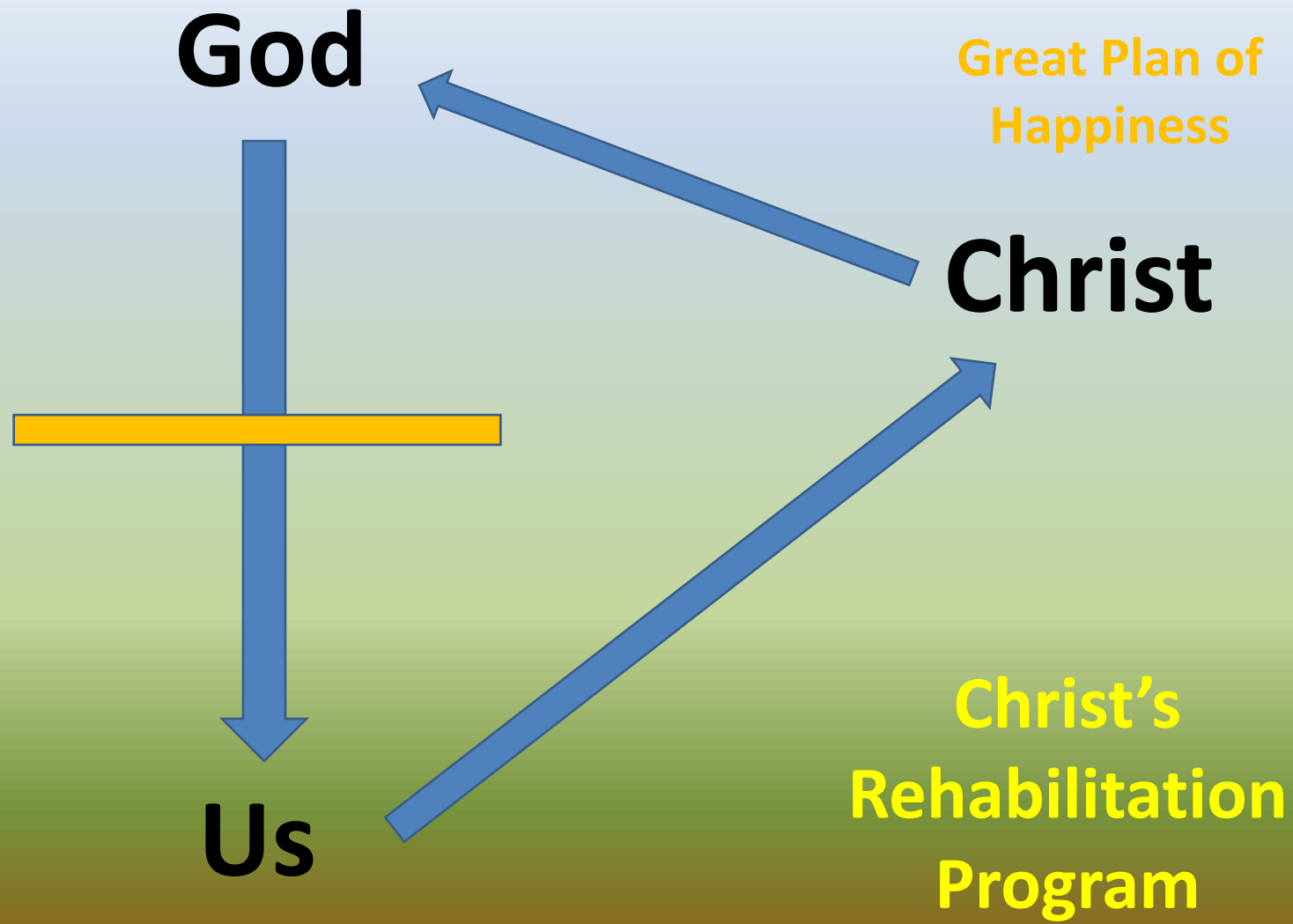
*"I will seek that which is lost....
neither shall the beast of the land devour
them...
therefore I will save my flock."*

Ezekial 34:16,22,28



The Shepherd lays down His Life for His Sheep





Sources:

Poway Institute by Becky Davies and Lesley
Meacham

