



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 12: I Know My Own
Suggested Week of Use: February 19, 2023
Core Passage: John 10:7-14,25-30

News Story Summary

Every year, a huge migration of sheep takes place in Wyoming. With the help of shepherders from Peru, thousands of animals make a 300-mile round trip through the lowlands and the mountains of southwest Wyoming in search of the greenest pastures. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that there are currently about five million sheep in the United States, and Wyoming is the fourth largest sheep producer in the country. As the seasons turn, the sheep and their nomadic keepers move to higher elevations during the summer and fall. Then, as winter weather approaches, they reverse course and head back down toward better grazing land. The shepherders, who are in the United States on work visas, make about \$1,800 per month. With no permanent structures along the route, they sleep inside wheeled shacks that can accommodate two people each. They have no running water or electricity. Their cell phones and the solar panels they use to charge them are the only “conveniences” available to them.

For more about this story, search “10,000 sheep with Peruvian shepherds.”

Focus Attention

To supplement **FOCUS ATTENTION**, share the story of the Peruvian shepherds and call for reactions. Ask: *From this summary, what words would you use to describe the shepherds taking care of the sheep? How do they demonstrate care and concern for the sheep under their care?* Point out that a lot of bad things could happen to the sheep if the shepherders did not keep an eye on them and guide them to the right places. Note that the animals could get lost or injured or even killed by a predator. Emphasize that the sheep need the shepherders. Share that in today’s session, Jesus claimed to be the Good Shepherd who loves and cares for His sheep. Encourage adults to think about how Jesus acts like a shepherd in their lives as they study this passage.

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement **SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE**, remind the group about the Peruvian shepherders. Say: *Most of us have no idea what it would be like to drive thousands of sheep across hundreds of miles.* Explain that the shepherders can’t get the sheep to the right grazing areas unless the sheep are willing to hear and obey. Ask: *In what ways are we like sheep and how is Jesus our great Shepherd?* Encourage adults to examine their lives in the coming week and to ask God to help them do whatever it takes to hear His voice more clearly and to obey His leadership in every area.