



HE KNOWS MY NAME



“He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.”

John 10:3

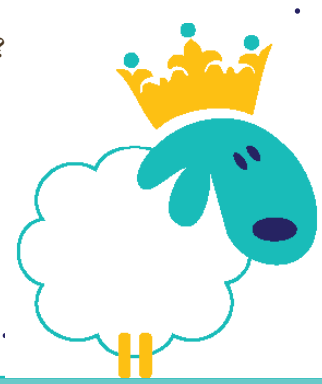


SHEEP'S CORNER

The word for “calls” in John 10:3 is an actual term for the naming of sheep. Shepherds take this duty very seriously. Why? Because they love their sheep and by giving them an individual name, they are giving them **individual significance**. Names are very important. Think about your name. Why were you named Sarah, or Margaret, or Wentworth Grace? Chances are, you were named after one of your great, great, great grandmothers! Sheep were often named after the environment in which they were born. For example, if a little lamb was born on a beautiful day, the shepherd might name her Joy! Perhaps Joy's sister was named flopsy because her ears were floppy. Maybe one sheep was named socks because she had black legs with a white body. Whatever the case may be, having a name is very important.

Gretchen felt lost at her new school. She had just moved from a different state and was missing all of her friends. Gretchen did not know anyone except one girl who was the daughter of her mom's roommate in college. But really? How was she going to find Beth Anne in a class of 350 students? She had only met her once before. Gretchen doubted Beth Anne would even recognize her, much less remember her name. Then, out of a sea of people, she heard her name. “Gretchen! Gretchen!” Beth Anne called. “Come on over here and meet some of my friends. We have saved you a seat at our table!” Gretchen lifted her head and smiled. She felt her confidence rise and with excitement, quickly made her way over to Beth Anne's table.

How great is it when someone remembers your name? The Bible tells us that God never forgets our name. In fact, Isaiah 49:16 says, “See, I have written your name on the palms of my hands.” How cool is that? The Good Shepherd KNOWS our name, and He never forgets it. The Good Shepherd knows that we, too, have significance. He created us as His masterpiece (Ephesians 2:10). He knows how many hairs we have on our head (Matthew 10:30). He knows the thoughts we think, when we sit and when we rise, and the days ahead (Psalm 139). You are special and significant. Yes, the Good Shepherd knows your name.





SHEEP TALK

1. How did you get your name? Is there a special story behind your birth? If you were a sheep, what would be your name?

2. Can you remember a time when someone remembered your name? How did this make you feel?

3. Why do you think it's important to remember that God knows your name? What is significant about God leading us?

MORE TO CHEW: God Calls us by Name ~ Isaiah 43:1, John 10:14-15, Psalm 91:14



FLOCK FACTS

A GOOD SHEPHERD KNOWS THE NAMES OF HIS FLOCK. THEY ARE NAMED BY THE PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF EACH SHEEP. THE SHEEP HEAR THEIR NAME AND THEY LISTEN TO THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE TO LEAD THEM. THEY WILL NOT FOLLOW A STRANGER'S VOICE.



SHEPHERD'S STAFF

Not only does God know your name, but He also calls you by name and leads you to safe pastures. We are not a number in a crowd or a face in a room. **We have significance.** But in order for God to lead us, we have to learn how to listen for His voice. How? We hear God's voice by reading the Bible. The more we get to **know** Him, the better we will be at discerning His voice. By knowing God's commands in Scripture and building a relationship with Him, we will know what is right and what is wrong. His voice is not going to be audible, but we will sense the right direction in our hearts. This is called the leading of the Holy Spirit that we receive when we believe in Jesus. Remember, God will never lead us into danger, poor decisions, or sinful actions. He will only lead us into green pasture and quiet waters. Build a genuine relationship with the Good Shepherd. Listen for your name. He loves you personally and leads you out.

Dear Lord, thank You that You know my name! Even before I was born, You knew the days of my life. Because You know the road ahead, I trust You to lead me in the direction You want for me. This can be hard, Lord. I like to go my own way and lead my own life. I guess I feel like I am more in control. I commit to knowing You better by studying Your Word and doing what it says. I trust in Your lead. Guide my steps today and thank You for not calling me flopsy! I love You. Amen.