

THE GOOD SHEPHERD SERIES / CHARACTERISTICS OF SHEEP

Bible Story Prelude:

- Briefly demonstrate the Lamb Chop Puppet (how to make it work with your hand)
- Briefly talk about sheep / pick a few general characteristics: (Taken from answers.com)
 - must have a leader (shepherd) and must be told what to do and where to go, otherwise they'll wander off and get lost; easily influenced by a leader, by the shepherd; the shepherd is most effective, calming influence; totally dependent on shepherd for every need
 - gregarious in nature...meaning they love to be with the herd
 - herbivores
 - constantly need fresh water, fresh pasture
 - have very little discernment in choosing food or water; even eating poisonous plants or drinking dirty water
 - need to be "on the move"; need a predetermined plan, pattern of grazing
 - look for easy places to rest
 - need "rod and staff" guidance
 - timid, fearful, easily panicked
 - dumb, stupid, gullible
 - very vulnerable to fear, frustration, pests, hunger
 - stampede easily, vulnerable to mob psychology
 - little or no means of self-defense; can only run; easily killed by enemies
 - jealous, competitive for dominance
 - stubborn - will insist on their own way
 - easily "cast" - flipped over on their back, unable to right themselves will die of starvation if not turned over by shepherd; helpless
 - don't like to be sheared, cleaned; too much wool can cause sheep to be easily "cast"
 - creatures of habit; get into "ruts"
 - need the most care of all livestock