



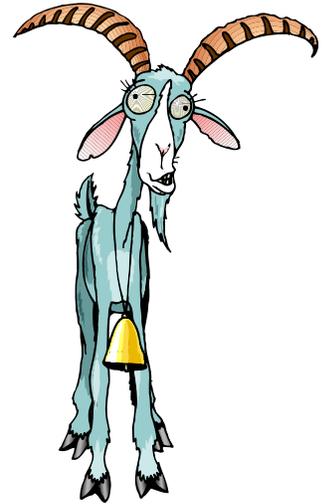
## Woolley Sheep & Hairy Goats:

### Are you a Sheep or a Goat?

*Use John 10: 1-18* Jesus compares Christians to sheep and Himself as our shepherd.

*Use Psalm 78:52, 79:13.* Do you know why we Christians are compared to sheep?

**Illustration:** The most effective and fun way to teach this lesson is using a round pen and a few sheep and a few goats. You could have some of the older children that are familiar with the behavior of these animals or an adult helper that is, stand in the round pen with the animals and throughout the lesson at various times you could have them try to separate out a sheep or a goat and bring to the forefront. Towards the end of your lesson, while the helper is wrestling to get one or the other to the forefront of the herd you can ask at various times the question: Are you a sheep or a goat? Makes for a lot of fun, attention on the lesson, and a picture paints a thousand words as we used to say.



Another approach we have used is to print off a picture of a sheep and a picture of a goat and use these at various times throughout the lesson to compare and contrast the two animals. By clicking on this lesson you should be able to save the picture as a download/picture and then in one of your software packages zoom up enough to make a comical letter sized picture; print on card stock and you are in business.

### **John 10:1-18**

*1 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.*

*2 But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.*

*3 To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.*

*4 And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.*

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

*6 This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them.*

*7 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.*

*8 All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.*

*9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.*

*10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

*11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.*

*12 But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.*

*13 The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.*

*14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.*

*15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.*

*16 And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.*

**Psalm 78:52** *But made his own people to go forth like sheep, and guided them in the wilderness like a flock.*

**Psalm 79:13** *So we thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks for ever: we will shew forth thy praise to all generations.*

## **So the question today is: Are you a sheep or are you a goat?**

We raised sheep for 4H when our son was growing up.

[If you have ever done the same, then you too can insert your own experiences with sheep here; there will be analogies that apply.]

Raising sheep was quite an experience. We learned quickly that this is not an animal that you can just turn out to pasture and leave to his own devices. I am convinced they only have one brain cell and on any given day it may not be functioning.

At night they had to be safely locked in a secure pen with a very high fence or safely behind barn doors. If a coyote approached, the sheep would not run away or fight back. They just did not understand danger. So every day we had to let them out into a penned area or stay with them if they had to pass through the field. They were in constant need of shepherding in one way or another.

Clean water was essential for the health of the lambs, but water could not be running water or the sheep would not drink it. It had to be still water, no ripples, not even from the wind blowing over the water. And if you left water for them, they would step in it, so if any debris was floating in the water, that is grass or dirt, the sheep were not going to drink it.

Sheep require a lot of personal care.

That experience of raising sheep is one that you don't easily forget for a lot of reasons. In doing so, we learned a few things about sheep:

- Sheep are defenseless without a shepherd. They are gentle, meek, & innocent.
- Sheep have to be led to good pasture so they don't eat things that will poison them.
- Sheep are easy to lead if they know and trust you, but easily spooked by strangers.

### **Goats on the other Hand:**

A few facts about goats:

- Goats have short tempers and are head strong/stubborn.
- Goats do not like to be led. They are selfish and want their way.
- Goats are naturally quarrelsome. Do not turn your back on a goat; especially a male goat. He might decide to butt you for no reason at all.
- Goats smell bad. If you don't believe me, try drinking goat's milk straight from the goat!

### **Goats and Sheep Side by Side**

Goats and sheep can pasture side by side. They're both of the Capridae subfamily of the Bovine family, so they have lots of physiology in common. They forage in different ways and prefer different types of vegetation. Many small farm operators keep both. But raising sheep and goats together requires special consideration.

- Require different minerals: The big difference between goats and sheep is the mineral copper. For sheep, too much copper can be fatal. They acquire all they need through foraging. However, goats do not and require a mineral supplement containing copper.
- Prefer different diets: Goats prefer leaves, twigs, vines and shrubs, with favorites being blackberries and poison ivy. Goats are known as browsers, looking for specific things to eat. Sheep, on the other hand, are grazers who prefer grass and clover.
- Goats are aggressive; sheep are passive. This can cause harm to the sheep.

Something you may not know is that it used to be common for sheep and goats to be together in a flock. In fact, Jesus used the comparison between the two animals to describe people that are saved/born-again Christians [sheep] and people that do not have Christ as Savior [goats.]

[\*Matthew 25:32-34\*](#)

*32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:*

*33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.*

*34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

Goats and sheep can be mixed together in a flock, but that does not make a goat become a sheep.

The sheep follow the shepherd, but the goats do not, they have to be herded along.

Eventually the goats are separated out. Just like in [Matthew 25](#), someday we will be separated from the goats.

Sheep [born-again people] and goats [ not born-again people] are in this church.

But God knows which is which. One day He will put the sheep on the right and the goats on the left.

The sheep will be taken to heaven, and the goats to everlasting fire. [Matthew 25:41](#) *Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:*

SO which are you? A sheep or a goat?

**Present Salvation Here.**