The Lost Sheep

Written by Bethan Lycett
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This is a story that Jesus told of a little sheep who went out from the fold. The gate was left open wide one day, and into the lane little sheep went to play.
The Shepherd had told of the danger outside, but little sheep thought that he probably lied. So slowly the little sheep went down the track, and at the end of the lane he never looked back.
The orchard had apples and pears on the trees and butterflies danced on the cool summer breeze.
Over and under he tried to go through, but something so simple was quite hard to do.

He finally got through with a push and a squeeze, and continued his journey on into the trees.
Little sheep went through the trees till he heard a wolf start to howl, and he got very scared.

He should have listened to what Shepherd had said, and wished he was back in the fold safe in bed.
He tried to run home through the trees, but he found he was lost and he fell in a hole in the ground. He couldn't climb out, as the hole was too deep for those with short legs like the lost little sheep.
Back in the field Shepherd started to count,
100 sheep should have been the amount,
but counting to 99 Shepherd did see,
one less of his precious sheep than there should be.
He started to count all the sheep once again, the twins, little black one, the one that was lame. Looking around he noticed the gate, and knew little sheep must have made an escape.
He started to search high and low on the lane, hoping to find little sheep once again. He went through the orchard and over the stile, all the time looking for little sheep’s smile.
Sheep was so scared what the Shepherd would say, knowing the trouble he’d brought his own way.

But hearing the Shepherd calling for him, a ‘baaa’ escaped that he couldn’t keep in.

Shepherd was happy to see his sheep there, and helped him right out with no time to spare.
Sheep was so **tired** he fell straight to **sleep**, and **dreamed** of his **field** and the **99 sheep**. But **wolf** had missed out on **catching** his dinner, and settled for **fish** and **chips** to stop getting thinner!
The little sheep had become lost when he went his own way and didn't stay where the Shepherd had said it was safe.

Just like the little sheep in this story, we have all gone our own way and strayed from the good Shepherd, God. He doesn't want any of us to remain lost, and he loves us so much that he sent his only son, Jesus, to find us.
Jesus went to the cross to take the punishment for the wrong things we have done, and if we trust in him, one day he will take us back with him to his fold, heaven.

In John chapter 10 verse 11 Jesus says:

“I am the good Shepherd. The good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”
A little sheep escapes from the field one day,
Wanting to find fun new places to play.
But what will happen when he finds he is lost?
Will the Shepherd rescue him, whatever the cost?