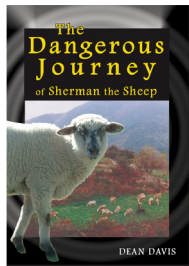


THE DANGEROUS JOURNEY OF SHERMAN THE SHEEP

Discussion/Activity Guide for
Family, Group, or Classroom Use
Prepared by Beverly Coons, M.A.Ed.



This book is an allegory. What other allegories have you read? The author, Dean Davis, first created this story to tell to his children. Then he told the story to his congregation when he was a pastor. Finally, it was written down and published in book form so other parents could read it to their children, and teachers to their classrooms. All ages will enjoy reading about Sherman the sheep. This guide will help make your reading/listening experience meaningful, fun, and unforgettable.

Vocabulary

Here are some of the more challenging and interesting words from this story. Find out what each word means, what part of speech it is (noun, verb, adverb, or adjective) and use it in an interesting sentence.

1. briskly
2. sullenly
3. sternly
4. fervent
5. persistent
6. emerged
7. grotesque
8. menacingly
9. indignation
10. cower
11. assess
12. surreptitiously
13. ecstatic
14. cringed
15. disheveled
16. savoring
17. pensive
18. vigil
19. rekindle
20. subsided

Chapter Questions

CHAPTER ONE:

1. Who does the Shepherd remind you of?
2. At what time of the year does the Good Shepherd take the family flock to the high country?

CHAPTER TWO:

1. What do you think is the difference between being happy and being excited? Which do you think is better? Why?
2. What do Sherman's new friends call Sin Mountain?
3. Bertram tells Sherman he only has two choices. What are they?
4. How would you describe Sherman's and Bertram's relationship?

CHAPTER THREE:

1. What does Sherman decide to do, so he can win his new friends' respect?
2. Is Sherman being honest with himself when he makes his dangerous decision? Give an example from this chapter of something he thinks or says that shows he is or is not being honest with himself.

CHAPTER FOUR:

1. What puzzles Sherman when he enters the forest?
2. What does Sherman find to eat? What is the problem with this food?
3. Sherman gets stuck by some terrible thorns. How does this end up being a good thing?

CHAPTER FIVE:

1. What does the smoke make Sherman think he can do?
2. Who prevents Sherman from falling into the crack?
3. How does the smoke react to the mysterious shepherd?

CHAPTER SIX:

1. What is really frightening about the crack when Sherman peeks into it?
2. What makes Sherman panic?

CHAPTER SEVEN:

1. Sherman watches a group of sheep who bully a small black ram named Dudley. Who is the worst bully, Lou or Nickey? Explain your choice.
2. Describe Dudley.

CHAPTER EIGHT:

1. How does Sherman end up on a mountain ledge?
2. What important thing does Sherman realize in this chapter?
3. What does Sherman do hour after hour while alone and helpless on the ledge?

CHAPTER NINE:

1. As if being stranded on a mountain ledge wasn't bad enough, Sherman faces two more dangers in Chapter 9. What are they?
2. How is he rescued?

CHAPTER TEN:

1. Just like when Jesus calls us to follow Him, the Shepherd calls Dudley. Why doesn't Dudley go with the Shepherd and Sherman?
2. Why is Sherman angry with the Shepherd?

CHAPTER ELEVEN:

1. What do sheep do to show affection?
2. What is it that helps Sherman to begin to heal the ache in his heart?
3. What completes Sherman's healing?
4. Sherman's parents are horrified to find blood on him, and yet he isn't hurt. Whose blood is it? What do you think this symbolizes?

CHAPTER TWELVE:

1. Find the verse in the Bible that this sentence comes from: "My Father has given them to me, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand" (p. 129). Who was speaking in the Bible verse?
2. What do you think the story of Uncle Billy has inspired Sherman to do?

CHAPTER THIRTEEN:

1. The Shepherd gives Dudley a new name. What is it?
2. He also gets a new family. Who becomes his adopted father?
3. At the beginning you wrote down who you thought the Good Shepherd reminded you of. Have you changed your mind? Give two things that the Good Shepherd says or does in the story that show who He represents.

Writing Topic Ideas

1. Chapter 1 states that the sheep trusted their Shepherd to keep them safe. Who do you trust this way? Write about him or her.
2. Who does the Shepherd in the story remind you of? Why?
3. In Chapter 2, Sherman says to his father, "Father, they're more than happy, they're excited!" What do you think is the difference between being happy and being excited? Which do you think is better? Why?
4. Draw a picture of your favorite event or scene in the story. Then write about why you chose that event or scene. What made it special to you?
5. What is your favorite "simple pleasure" (see p. 26 in the story)? When and where do you enjoy this simple pleasure? Write about it.
6. Sherman makes both bad decisions and good decisions. Write a paragraph about his bad decisions, and then write a paragraph about his good decisions.



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