

**SAFE IN THE FOLD**  
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**Purpose:**

The parable of the sheep who wanders from the fold is known by most. The twist to this sketch is a “sheep” who doesn’t wander from the fold, just prefers to ride the fence. It is easy to overlook dangers of fence sitting. Just as the one who wanders, this one doesn’t grasp the concept of safety in the fold. The shepherd will try to get the fence sitter back to safety.

**Characters:**

Shepherd/Pastor  
Sheep/parishioners

**Props:**

Lamb’s wool for the backs of the sheep, shepherd’s staff, split rail fence, and an extra set of clothing (very torn and shredded).

This skit is done in silence. No dialogue needed. The stage holds only a cardboard representation of a split rail fence on one end. From this same side, players come in as a group. They start on one end of stage by the fence, heads down, grazing. On their backs are fleeces of wool. Overseeing them is a shepherd in traditional costume.

One “sheep” is obviously having a problem with the program. As group begins its slow journey across stage, he lags behind for a moment to graze as far under fence as he can reach. Another sheep breaks away, comes back, and nudges him back in the group. As they move across platform, they gradually assume an upright position and drop fleeces of wool to reveal street clothes. As the shepherd moves with them, he drops the shepherd’s robe to reveal a suit. He also exchanges staff for a Bible, and is obviously preaching and exhorting as he walks along before them.

By the time the group reaches the middle of the platform as people, the same sheep who had problems wandering, breaks away several times to go look out at the audience, off stage to the back, etc. Each time he wanders, other sheep look at him and each other worriedly. When they reach the other side of the stage, the wanderer has gone back, reaching over the fence for a cardboard sign. The sign reads, “The Great American Dream.” All other sheep are “listening” to pastor.

Suddenly, a great black hand made of cardboard reaches in from off stage or behind an obstacle. It hooks around the stray Christian and pulls him off stage, while he waves his hands wildly.

At this point, one of the others notices it, gets the pastor’s attention, and points behind them. The pastor makes a gesture of resignation, and then motions to the others. They form a circle facing out and begin praying fervently. Pastor heads off stage in same direction as lost sheep that was dragged off.

After a few moments, Pastor reappears with lost saint. The redeemed one is disheveled. Clothes are torn and hair in disarray. The pastor is rolling sleeves back down and putting suit coat back on as they cross stage to others.

When they reach other sheep, there is rejoicing. The pastor makes motion for the lost one to join the group...and stay put... Then he leads the whole group off the stage as the lights go down.