



Activity 2 – The Shepherd and his Sheep



Hello again from St Mary's Church!

We hope you enjoyed making the Prayer Treasure Box (see notes) from last week. If you did, and you would like to show us a picture of it, we'd love to hear from you!

If you have Facebook, you can search for St Mary's Facebook page and send us a message with your picture.

If you didn't make a Prayer Treasure Box, the instructions are still on St Mary's church website, but you can still enjoy these activities without one.

This week, sheep!

This week we're thinking about sheep because the Bible reading for Sunday 3rd May was about sheep and a shepherd!

You might like to read this story from a Bible you have at home, or you can read it at the bottom of this sheet. The reading is from John chapter 10 verses 1-10.

Have you seen sheep in the fields when you have been out for a walk?

Maybe you live on a farm, and you help to look after sheep?

Or maybe you have another pet...like a dog, or a cat, or a guinea pig?

- If you have a pet, it is a big responsibility
- You have to feed it and make sure it has plenty of water
- You have to make sure it is kept in a safe place
- If it wanders off or gets lost, you have to go and look for it and bring it home

Thinking about all these animals, and especially sheep, I am reminded about something Jesus said about himself,

"I am the good shepherd."

A shepherd is a person who takes care of sheep.

Sheep can't take care of themselves.

They need someone to watch over them and care for them.

They need someone to protect them from harm.

Jesus said he knows his sheep and his sheep know him.



As you might have guessed, Jesus wasn't really talking about sheep!

He was talking about you and me. We are his "sheep."

Jesus loves us, he takes care of us, he makes sure that we have everything we need. There is no doubt about it: Jesus really loves his sheep!

Prayer Treasure Box - Idea 2

We thank God for all the animals, and especially this week, for sheep.

Try to find something to go in your Prayer Treasure Box
to remind you that
Jesus is our Good Shepherd who looks after us, and we are his sheep.

When you go out for a walk you may find some actual sheep's wool stuck
on a fence or gate. Ask a grown up to help you pull it off.

You might have a toy sheep or a cotton wool ball,
they look a bit like a sheep!

Or perhaps you can draw a picture of a sheep.

A prayer you might like to say

Dear Jesus,
thank you for being our Good Shepherd.
Thank you for loving us and taking care of use.
Help us to look after our pets and each other. Amen.

Other 'sheep' activities!

Here are two other fun things you can do on the 'sheep' theme

Hide and sheep!

- One person in the family is the 'Shepherd' and everyone else are 'Sheep'
- If you are a Sheep, find a good hiding place and the Shepherd will try and find you
- When a Sheep is found they join the Shepherd in finding more sheep

Share a snack – Marshmallow sheep!

- Give each person a marshmallow (they look a bit like sheep!)
- If you have some pretzels, you can add small bits for legs
- Eat and enjoy!

Bible story

John chapter 10 verses 1-10 the Parable (or story) of the Shepherd



Jesus said, "I am telling you the truth: when someone does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in some other way, they are a thief and a robber. The person who cares for the sheep goes in through the gate. He is the shepherd of the sheep.

The gate keeper opens the gate for the shepherd. The sheep listen to the voice

of the shepherd. He calls his own sheep, using their names, and he leads them out of the sheep pen. The shepherd brings all his sheep out of the sheep pen and walks in front of them. The sheep follow the shepherd because they know his voice. But the sheep will not follow someone they don't know. Instead, they will run away because they don't know that person's voice."

Jesus told the people this story, but they didn't understand what he meant.

So Jesus said again, "I am telling you the truth: I am the gate for the sheep. Everyone who came before me were thieves and robbers and the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Everyone who comes in through me will be saved. Through me they will come in and go out. They will find everything they need. A thief comes to steal, but I come to give everyone life – life that is full and good."

Notes

The **Prayer treasure Box** is Activity 1 and can be found on St Mary's church website:

<http://www.stmarysbottesford.co.uk/faith-at-home-for-families/>