

Sunday Club May 3 2020

The Good Shepherd

This Sunday we are looking at the story of the good shepherd, and how the shepherd cares for the sheep, and how like sheep we can be. Please send us pictures of any of the crafts you have done, you may want to draw us a sheep.

Reading for the younger ones:

John 10:11-15: "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep. The worker who is paid to keep the sheep is different from the shepherd who owns them. So when the worker sees a wolf coming, he runs away and leaves the sheep alone. Then the wolf attacks the sheep and scatters them. The man runs away because he is only a paid worker. He does not really care for the sheep.

"I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep, and my sheep know me, just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. I give my life for the sheep.

Reading for the older ones:

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

Questions for the older ones:

1. Sheep will go to anyone who calls to them. Disagree. (Verses 5, 8, 12-13)
2. A good shepherd will lay down his life to save his sheep. Agree. (Verses 11, 15, 17-18)
3. Strangers and hired men will kill a wolf trying to hurt the sheep. Disagree. (Verses 12-13)
4. Good shepherds don't have to enter the door to be good. Disagree. (Verses 1-2)
5. Jesus describes Himself as the door and the good shepherd. Agree. (Verses 7, 9, 14)

6. The sheep recognize their own shepherd by his voice. Agree. (Verses 3-4)
7. Jesus is trying to figure out who His sheep are. Disagree. (Verses 14-16)
8. Jesus says He knows His sheep like the Father knows Him. Agree. (Verses 14,16)
9. Jesus was forced to die for His sheep. Disagree. (Verses 17-18)
10. The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy Jesus' sheep. Agree. (Verses 8, 10, 12-13)

Jesus makes it clear that he is the good shepherd, the one who takes care of the sheep. Who are the sheep ? We are the sheep. When Jesus compares us to sheep, he is not paying us any compliments. Can we clean ourselves of our spiritual dirtiness? Is there anything we can do, all by ourselves, to wash away our sins? Of course not. We have to go to Jesus, our good shepherd, to be cleansed of our sins. Sheep don't think for themselves. They just follow other sheep who seem to be in charge. This means that sheep will even follow other sheep right over the edge of a cliff without another thought. Can you think of ways we follow others without thinking? If sheep wander off from the flock and shepherd, it's hard, if not impossible, for them to get back on their own. The shepherd has to come and find them. This is what our good shepherd, Jesus, does with us when we start to wander away from him. He comes after us and carries us back to the fold, and then he celebrates that we are back in right relationship with him. When we wander from the flock, when we stop going to church and spending time with other Christians, we have a harder time living like Jesus wants us to. If a sheep falls down and ends up on its back, it can't get up again on its own. They will just lay there, flailing their legs, until either someone helps them up, or they die. When we get into a place in life where we feel like we are flat on our backs, either through our own sins or through tough times, we can't save ourselves. We are totally dependent on Jesus Christ to save us, to lead us, and to keep us clean.

Psalm 23 as a prayer:

¹ The Lord is my shepherd;
I have all that I need.
² He lets me rest in green meadows;
he leads me beside peaceful streams.
³ He renews my strength.
He guides me along right paths,
bringing honour to his name.
⁴ Even when I walk
through the darkest valley,
I will not be afraid,
for you are close beside me.

Your rod and your staff
protect and comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a feast for me
in the presence of my enemies.

You honour me by anointing my head with oil.

My cup overflows with blessings.

⁶ Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me
all the days of my life,
and I will live in the house of the Lord
forever.

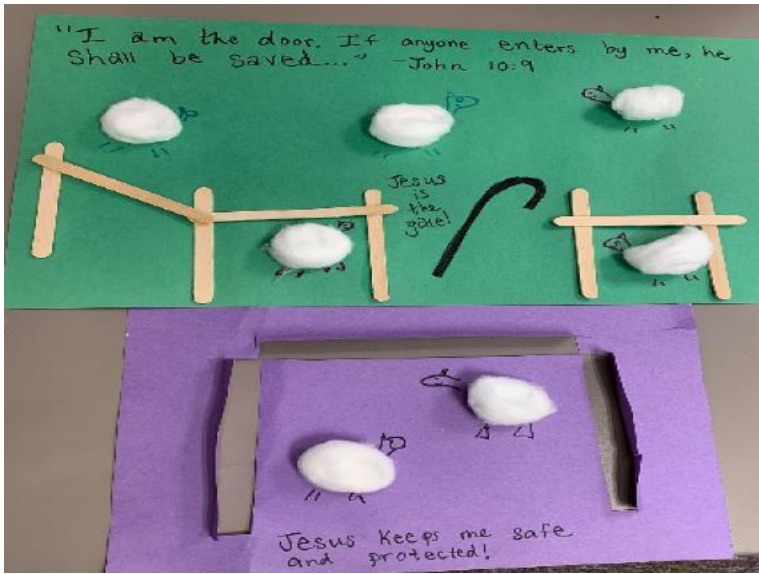
Craft – sheep in the pen

You will need:

Lollipop sticks, or yarn, or sticks
Markers, stickers, or other decorating materials
Glue stick or bottle
Cotton wool Balls
Scissors (optional)
Construction paper or card

Procedure:

1. Build a “fence” on your paper: arrange sticks along the perimeter and glue them down to look like a barrier. If desired, this could also be accomplished with yarn, or by cutting slits into the paper. Create an opening “gate.”
2. Place cotton ball “sheep” onto the paper within the fence. Glue the sheep down.
3. Decorate the sheep with legs, heads, and tails, if desired.
4. Add a verse and/or caption.
5. Allow to dry, and enjoy your sheep pen



Jesus is the Good Shepherd!



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