

I am the Good Shepherd

- **Ask:** What's your favorite music/song?
- **Activity: What's that sound!** Before the session, gather some items that make a noise e.g. keys, tambourine, bells, pasta in a bottle, drum, foil or crisp packet to rustle, castanets, bowl with a spoon in it, scissors. Put the items in a non-see through bag/hide the items behind a blanket so the children can not see them. Make a noise with the item and ask the children to guess what each item is. You could also blindfold each child and ask them to guess who in the group is speaking. Can the children recognise everyone's voice in the group between them? Talk about how we know some sounds, that we recognise them even when we don't see the object/person who is making the sound.
- **Sing:** Our God is a Great Big God available at https://youtu.be/uZNVaBNzs_Q, or Jesus Love is Very Wonderful at <https://youtu.be/VC4eb8Pk-3g> or Wiggle Freezer at https://youtu.be/tM_wGFVBBmA or Wiggle like a Worm at https://youtu.be/_YenZbKXjYg.
- **Talk:** In our game we were identifying sounds which reminds me of the I am statement that we are looking at today. Jesus says in John 10:14 "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". What is a shepherd? **Someone who looks after sheep. The shepherd would lead the sheep to good places to feed and drink fresh water. They would also keep the sheep safe from wolves and other dangers.** In Jesus' time the shepherd led the sheep using his voice - the sheep knew their shepherd's voice and would come running to him when he called. If someone other than the shepherd called the sheep, they would run away as they did not know the voice.
- **Watch or Read:** Do sheep only follow their Shepherd on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/e45dVgWgV64>, or Lottie's I am the Good Shepherd on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfoRgvwNoapVwiU5UCF2ZMg>, or read John 10:11-18 at <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+10%3A+11-18&version=NIV>,
- **Discuss:** Why do you think sheep need shepherds? **Sheep need shepherds as they are not very clever and they often follow each other. If one sheep gets scared and runs off they will all follow, even if it means they end up in danger.** Jesus wasn't a shepherd - he was a carpenter and a teacher, so who do you think he is calling us his sheep? **We are like Jesus' sheep because we need guiding and rescuing from danger sometimes** - which is why we need a Good Shepherd to take care of us and guide us. Jesus says in John 10:14 that the sheep are his: he cares for the sheep, not like someone who is hired to look after sheep and runs away when danger comes. Jesus will never leave us in life's troubles - he guides and helps us, providing us with what we need. He lays his life down for us so we can have the good life we were always meant to have. How can we learn what Jesus' voice sounds like so we can follow it? **Talk and listen to Jesus through prayer, talk to other Christians about Jesus, read and learn about Jesus.** This week can you see how many different ways you can hear Jesus' voice by talking and listening to him in prayer, learning about and talking about Jesus?

- **Prayer:** Dear Jesus, thank you that you are the Good Shepherd who cares for us and loves us so much. Thank you that you guide us and help us through life's difficulties. Help us to know your voice so that we may follow you, because you lead us to the best things in life. Amen.
- Is there anything that the children would like to pray about?
- **Make: The Good Shepherd's Staff:** You will need a pipe cleaner and some Cheerios. Help the children to thread the Cheerios onto the pipe cleaner until it is full. Before the session, print out the following: John 10:11-12 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep". And attach it to the shepherd's staff.
- **Make: Sheep puppets:** You will need lollipop sticks, A4 white and grey card, cotton wool, googly eyes (optional), glue, scissors, pens. On the white card, draw a round cloud shape - one large, one small for the sheeps body and hair. On the grey card, draw two small rectangles for legs and a sheep's head - remember to draw a face and glue on the googly eyes on. Cut all of your shapes out. Then glue all the pieces of the sheep together and then glue to your lollipop stick. You may like to add cotton wool, ribbons or flowers as accessories for your sheep.
- **Design: A play dough shepherd** using the template below. What do the children think a shepherd looks like? Perhaps provide some fabric cut in to tunics, trousers, shirts etc to give the children a choice of clothes to put on the playdough, or some pipe cleaners or string for a crook etc.
- **Activity:** Print out the attached sheets and colour the pictures, do the mazes, dot to dot, word puzzles etc.
- **Play: Herd the sheep:** Blow up 10 white balloons and draw sheep faces and tail on each of the balloons. Scatter them around the room. Roll up a newspaper to make a staff/stick and ask the children to herd the sheep using their stick/staff into the sheep pen made of four chairs in a square.
- **Drink and biscuit.**
- **Tidy up!**

The Good Shepherds Staff



Puppet Sheep



Good Shepherd

Jesus is
the Good
Shepherd.

What does a good
shepherd look like?

What does a good
shepherd do and
say?

Use play dough
to make a
model of
the
Good
Shepherd.

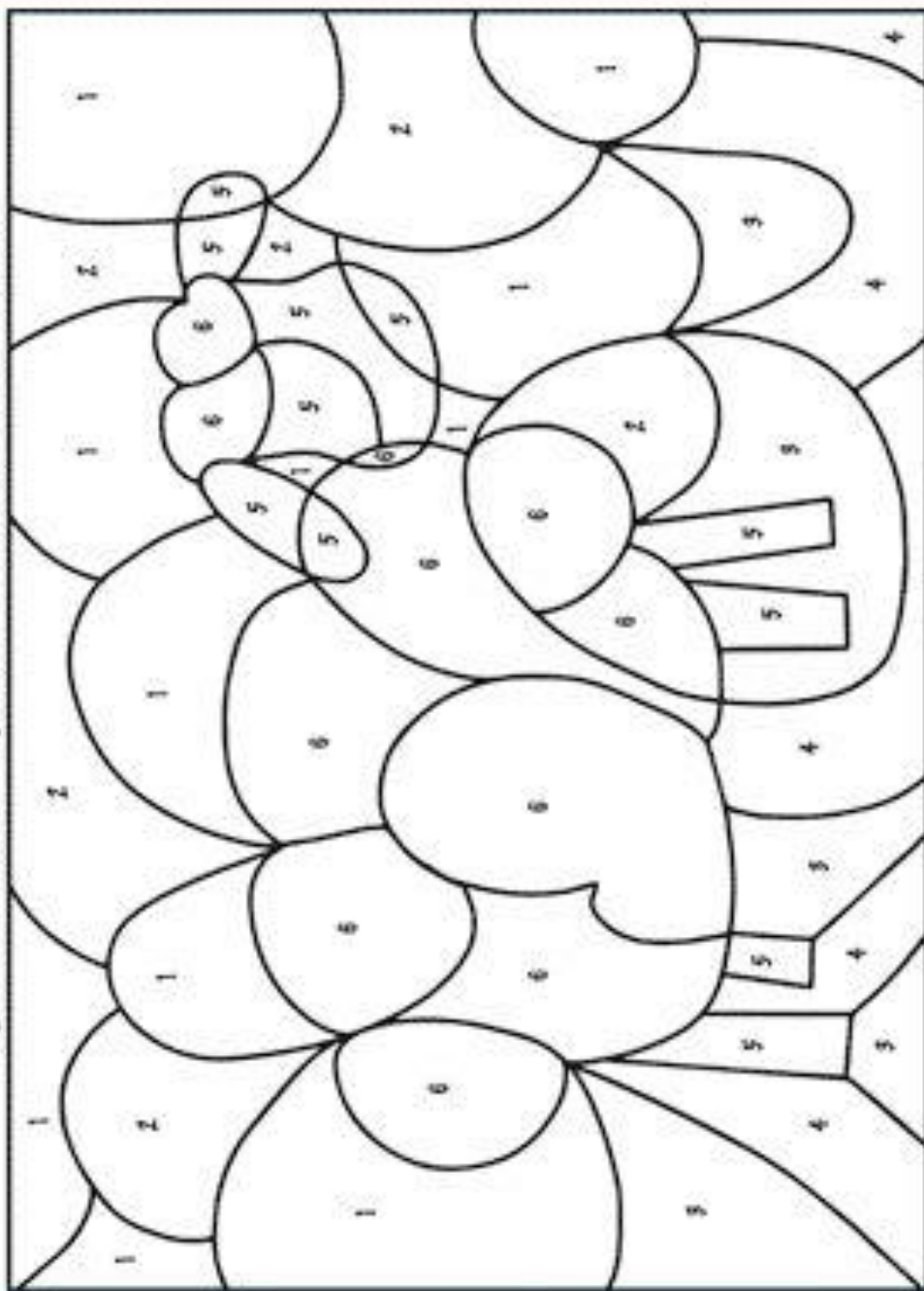


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Help the Shepherd

Help the shepherd find his lost sheep by coloring in the shapes with the correct color.

1 = Light Blue, 2 = Dark Blue, 3 = Light Green, 4 = Dark Green, 5 = Brown, 6 = Leave White

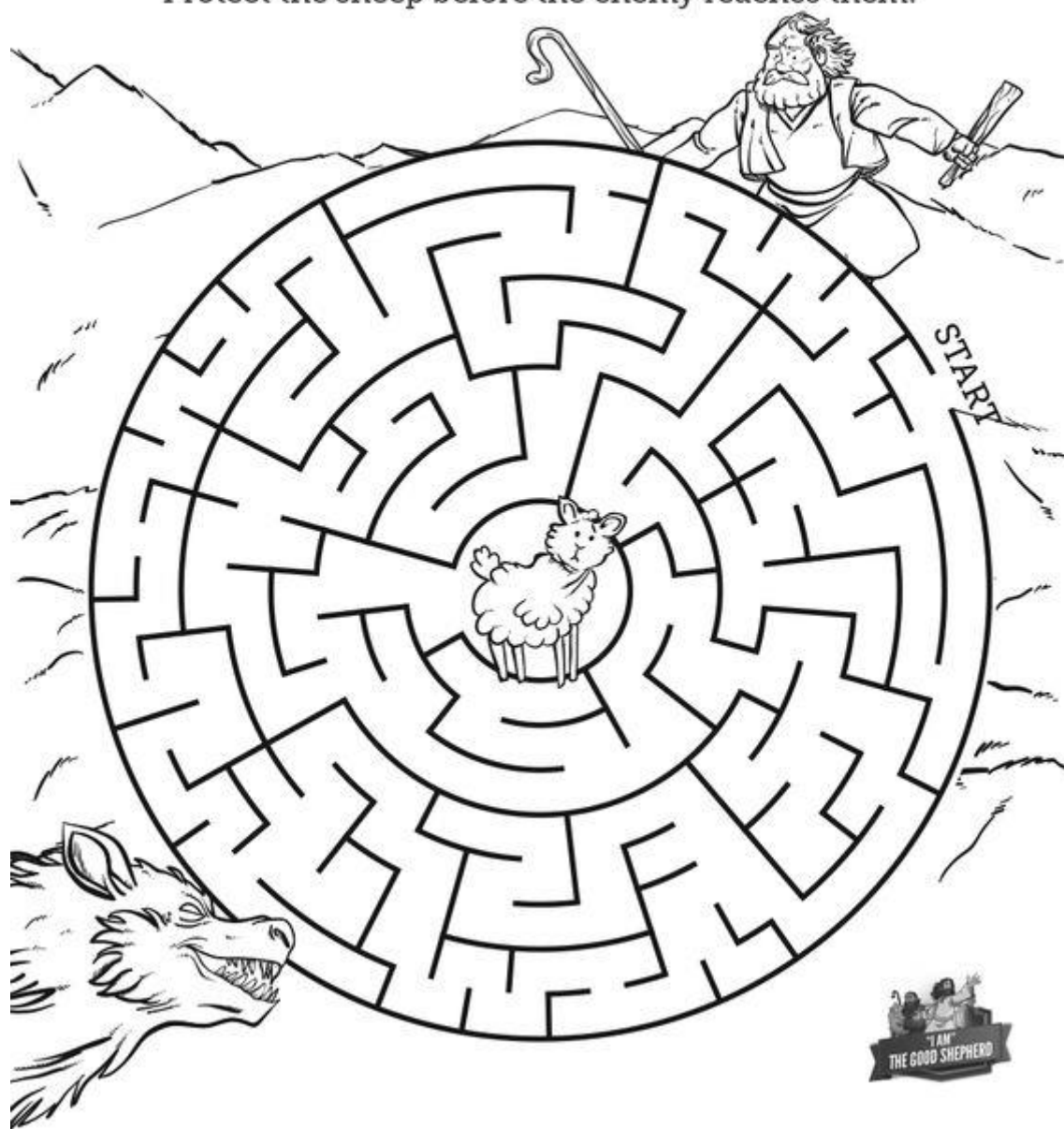


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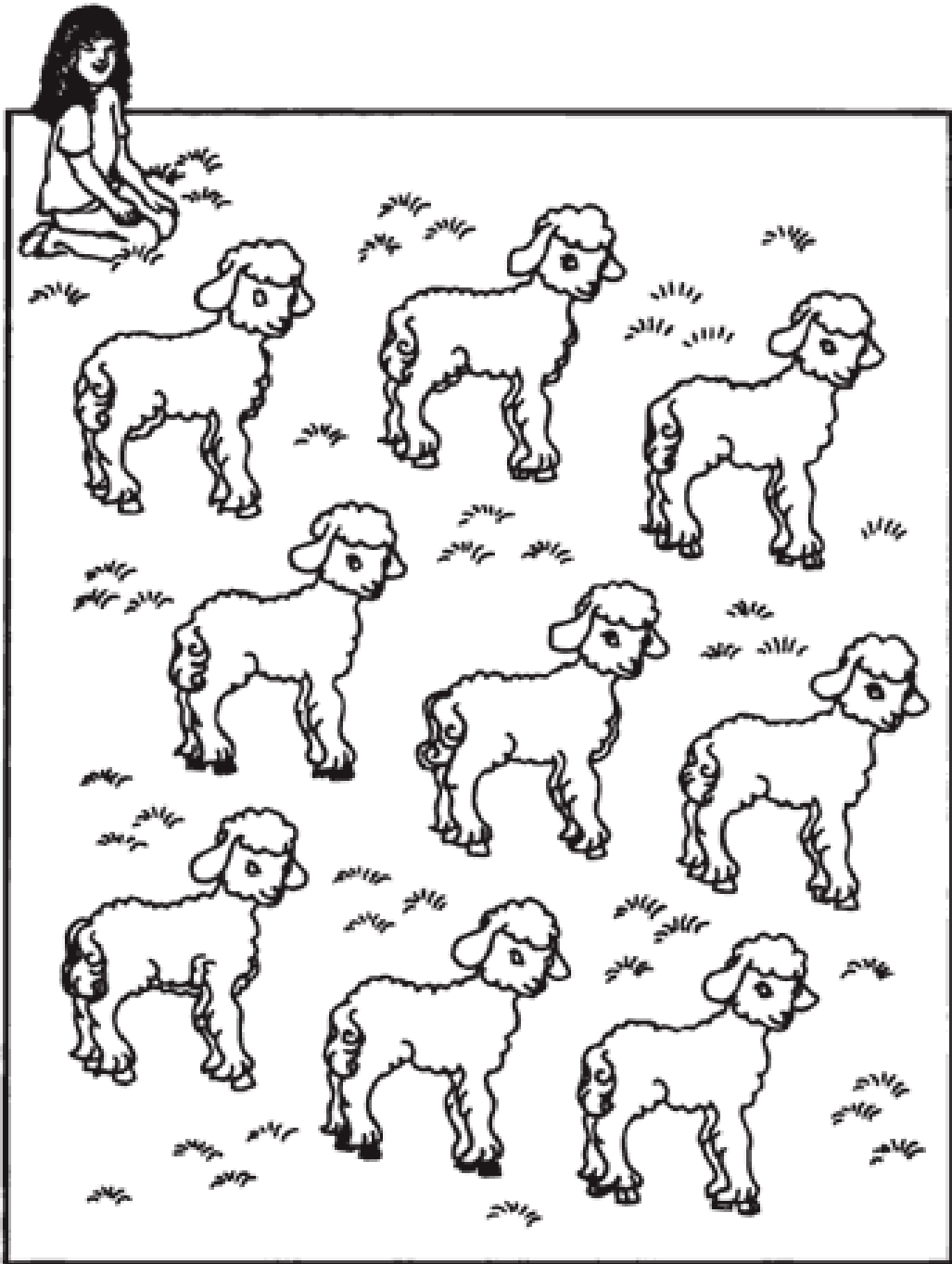
"I AM" THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Protect the sheep before the enemy reaches them.



John 10:1

A good shepherd takes care of his sheep and watches them. He makes sure they have enough food, are comfortable, and are healthy. Jesus is a shepherd. He cares for us and protects us. Circle the sheep that are exactly the same.



The Shepherd's Voice

When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. John 10:4 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on John 10:1-10 (NIV)

Find the hidden words. The words have been placed horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. When you locate a word, draw a circle around it.

H	I	G	K	T	G	V	L	F	T	Z	Z	T	E	Z
F	O	L	L	O	W	R	E	A	L	I	M	S	F	T
V	E	S	H	E	E	P	A	X	I	J	M	T	L	U
R	Z	S	A	V	E	D	D	E	F	N	U	H	I	J
A	Y	O	E	N	H	X	S	D	E	D	E	I	S	R
T	C	S	Q	A						I	N	E	T	D
A	L	H	E	M						G	O	F	E	M
F	K	E	E	E						P	B	G	N	R
P	E	P	L	V						N	E	A	H	O
F	A	H	M	K						Y	C	T	G	B
P	W	E	F	Y	R	Q	K	Q	S	Y	B	E	L	B
E	H	R	S	O	J	Y	J	H	N	B	H	X	E	E
N	D	D	O	T	A	V	A	X	C	R	B	E	Y	R
M	L	V	O	I	C	E	J	G	K	N	O	W	I	W
M	S	T	R	A	N	G	E	R	J	E	O	F	R	H

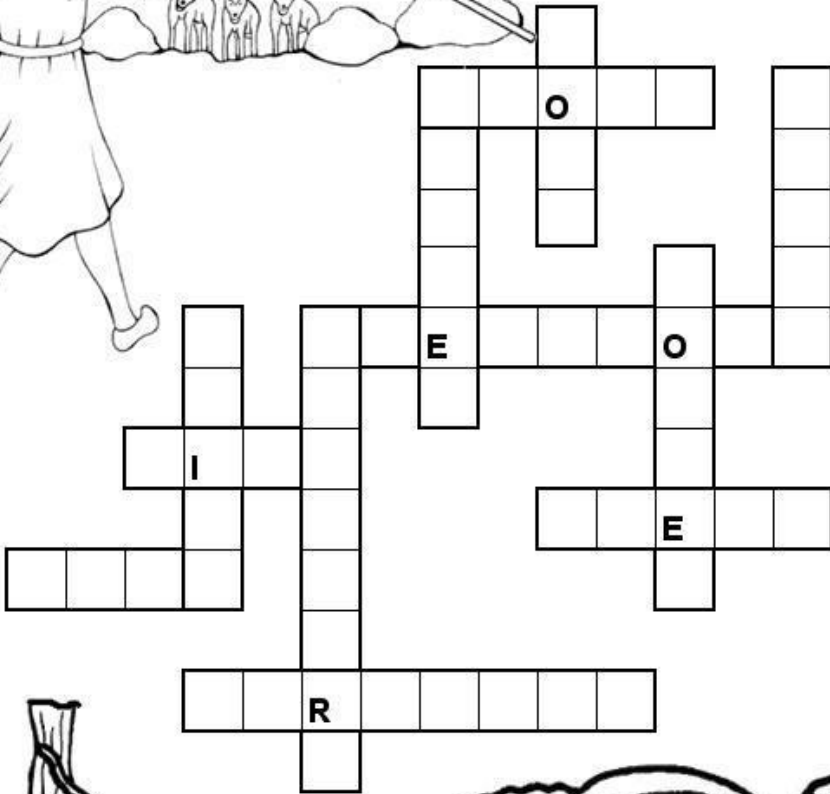


LIFE	LEADS	NAME	PEN	VOICE
KNOW	STRANGER	THIEF	LISTEN	FOLLOW
SHEEP	ROBBER	GATE	SHEPHERD	SAVED

The Good Shepherd



- Sheepfold
- Gate
- Robber
- Sheep
- Shepherd
- Voice
- Stranger
- Life
- Wolf
- Father
- Flock
- Hired



Make all words
fit into this
crossword

