

Sheep and Goats

The story

Jesus was talking to a big crowd one day about being saved and going to heaven. He said that when it came time, we would all be separated into two groups. One group would get to go to heaven, and the other group wouldn't.

God would say to the first group, "come join me in heaven and enjoy your inheritance! When I was hungry, you fed me. When I was thirsty you gave me something to drink. When I was alone and a stranger, you invited me in. When I was naked you gave me clothes to wear. When I was sick you took care of me. And when I was in prison you visited me."

The people in this group were excited. But they were also really confused. They didn't remember doing any of those things. You would think you would remember if you happened to meet God one day, and you definitely remember if he was naked! But he really meant that they had taken care of other people and He loves it when we love each other.

God would say to the second group, "Go away from me, you have no inheritance! When I was hungry, you wouldn't feed me. When I was thirsty you never gave me a drink. When I was alone and a stranger, you didn't invite me in. When I was naked you wouldn't give me clothes to wear. When I was sick you wouldn't care for me. And when I was in prison you ignored me."

The people in this group were super upset. And they were also really confused! They never would have ignored God like that! But he meant that he was disappointed that they hadn't looked after other people as the first group had.

Each and every one of us need help sometimes, *and* each and every one of us can be that help. Jesus tells us many times that we should love our neighbour just like we love ourselves, which includes making sure that others have food and clothes and love. And when we do those things for others, it's just like doing them for God.

What can we do?

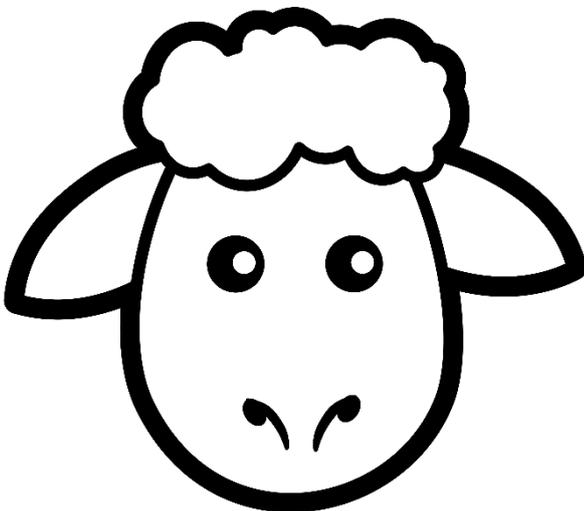
Cut out the sheep's head and legs (below) and attach them to a paper plate as the body. Write on the plate all the ways you can think of that we can show God's love by our actions towards other people.

Prayer

Dear God,
Thank you for Jesus who teaches us how to receive your love, light and power and extend it to others.
Amen

Songs and Videos

<https://youtu.be/6sWt9KQGxjA>





"All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left."
Matthew 25:32-33 (NIV)