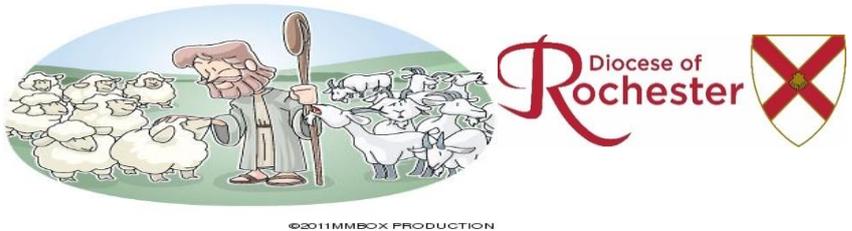


# Ministry @Home



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**These resources are to help equip & enable worship together as "family". They are intentionally intergenerational to allow space, conversation, activity & response together as the family of God. We encourage all ages to be participative & open, being responsive to God and each other.**

## Gather.....

- As you gather find a place that is comfortable and have the resources ready for the activities, prayer or response times ready.
- Choose 3 members to light the 3 candles (engage all ages)

### Opening words of praise with lighting of 3 candles -

I will light a light  
in the name of the Maker,  
who lit the world  
and gave everything life.

I will light a light  
in the name of the Son,  
who saved the world  
and stretched out his hand to me.

I will light a light  
in the name of the Spirit,  
who is present everywhere in the  
world  
and gives me strength.

**Together:  
We will light three lights  
for the trinity of love:  
God above us,  
God beside us,  
God beneath us;  
The beginning,  
The end  
and the Everlasting one.**

## Welcome....

### Song: Great Are You Lord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZqV6i98SkA>

**Bible passage:** Matthew 25:31-46 read this together from the International Children's Bible, it could also be read from different translations of the bible from different family members – spot if there are any differences.

**And/Or watch** this short video which tells the story.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2sDWuzUe78Y>

Alternatively you can watch the following adaptation of the parable – please use this video alongside all of the content within this sheet and take into consideration the context and meaning within the parable which is not to judge & not to be separating – Whilst it is too easy to see ourselves as sheep we miss countless opportunities to see Jesus in others and to follow Jesus' example.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWSkdx-XwWY>

Jesus' followers would often have seen flocks being sorted. During the day, they would graze together, roaming where they pleased. But at night the shepherd would separate them. Goats may look cute but they are very independent animals. They will eat anything and everything to satisfy their hunger. A shepherd has to be careful, because a mama goat will often eat every bit of the food put out for her babies, leaving them to go hungry.

Sheep are different they need help to stay alive! If a sheep falls on its back, it needs the shepherd to show it how to roll over and stand up again. But sheep also feel very calm when their shepherd is around. They will follow him anywhere because they have learned to trust him. They know that the shepherd is the one who cares for all their needs.

Jesus was talking about the time when He will return as the King of this world and all the people of the world will get to stand in front of Him. As followers of Jesus we are like the sheep who hear His voice and follow Him. Not everyone chooses to follow Jesus and those people He referred to as goats.

**Interactive Learning....**In this parable, Jesus' followers were able to do lots of things to show Jesus' love to other people. It's like Jesus pouring all this love into their hearts, and they can't help but pour love out into other people's lives. You might say that the good things the sheep did were evidence that Jesus was working in their lives. But the goats saw people in need, but did nothing for them. They were not like the sheep, who had been given a brand new way of seeing other people when they trusted Jesus.

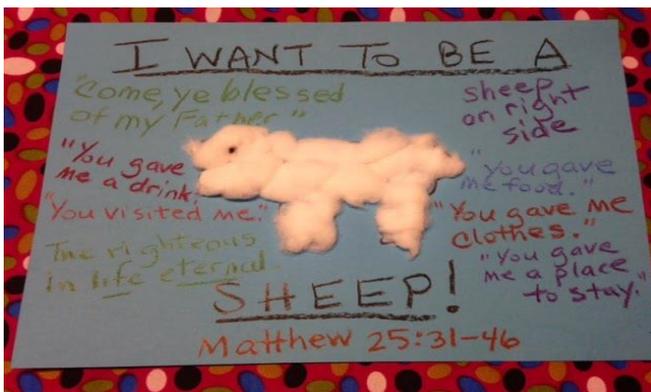
When you know how much Jesus loves you and how much He did for you on the cross, you are literally overflowing with His love. You can't help but love other people like He loves you. And when you serve them, you are also serving Jesus. But if you ignore and reject the love that Jesus offers, you will never see other people the way He sees them. You will never be able to serve them unselfishly and completely.

**Who Am I?** Look around at who you are worshipping with – you recognise them by what they look like and you know them by their name. If you have the technology, search on the internet what each persons name means. Share together the following questions:

1. Do you like the meaning of your name or do you prefer somebody else's and why?
2. What can I do this week that serves/helps one of these people and shows that Jesus is important to me. Jesus knows you by name, out loud name who you will love and help this week – encourage each other as the week progresses.

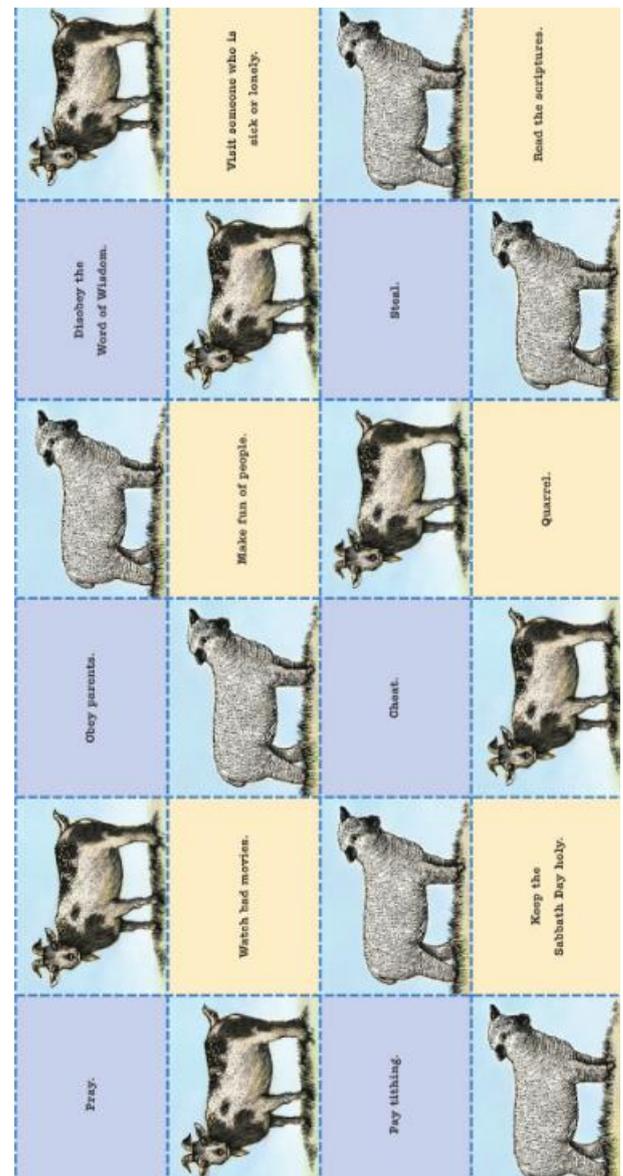
Draw a family sheep and write 'We want to be sheep' around it. Talk about ways you currently show others Jesus' love as a family, maybe you gave money to Children in Need or other charities? Or give to a food bank? How else could you go out of your way to help others as Jesus commanded us? Be specific with names of those you could share Jesus love with.

On the other side draw another sheep and write 'Thank you for sheep' around it. Write on it ways you have been helped by others. You may have been supported by a food bank, been the outsider at school or work and been befriended by another person. Include their names too.



### Sheep and Goats Pairs Game

Print and cut out (or make your own). Mix them up and place them upside down. Take turns to pick up 2. Aim for a matching pair – a sheep following Jesus teaching or a goat doing what it wants.



## Reflection & Prayer Time.....

**Song: I Just Want to be a Sheep**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I8GLj2Z7M6o>

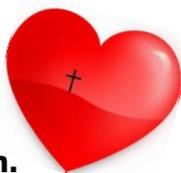
**Song: Reckless Love**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sc6SSHuZvQE>

Look at your sheep pictures, thank God for the 'sheep' you bless you and pray for them. Look at the other picture and pray for God to show you how you can be a 'sheep' wherever you are. Pray for the people you know God wants you to love. And then thank God that you already have your place in the kingdom that was prepared for you since the creation of the world because of your faith in Jesus. You cannot earn 'sheepdom' but you can live out your 'sheepiness' in the world.

**Say the Lord's Prayer together**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen**



## Celebration....

**If any of your members celebrate a birthday within the next week – sing**

Happy birthday to you  
To Jesus be true  
May God's richest blessings  
Be showered on you.



## Closing.....

**The Grace (with "Messy" actions)**

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with us all,  
now and evermore.**

**Amen.**

## Closing Responses.....

**Song: Nobody**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k3S56MGKOOI>

From where we are  
to where you need us.

**Jesus, now lead on!**

From the security of what we know  
to the adventure of what you reveal.

**Jesus, now lead on!**

To make this world  
look more like your kingdom,

**Jesus, now lead on!**

**Ask different members to blow out the  
candles.....until you meet again**

## Extra Ideas.

- Place your sheep picture somewhere the whole family can see it. Add to it during the week as you think of more names to add to either side.
- Think of some clothes or toys you have outgrown or barely use/wear. Have a sort out and pass them on to either a family you know or a charity shop.
- If you need help especially in these difficult times please remember that's ok too. Everyone needs help sometimes.