

This Week's Worship: The Good Shepherd

Opening

Wherever we come together,

God is with us.

God is here.

We come together to say sorry

We come together to say Thank you

We come together to ask for God's help

We come together to hear God's story

We come together to celebrate God's love.

Wherever we come together,

God is with us.

God is here.

Saying Sorry

Hold onto a stone and think about things that you have done this week you would like to say sorry for.

God loves us and forgives us when we are sorry for wrong things we have done.

For times this week when we have made others sad.

We are sorry.

For times this week when we have not helped others

We are sorry.

For times this week when we have not looked after your creation,

We are sorry

For times this week when we have been selfish

We are sorry

Put the stone in a bowl of water

As we leave these things behind, may God forgive us and give us a new, clean start today.

Amen

Saying thank you

To join in you will need: some slips of paper, some pens and an empty jam jar (you can join in without this for the first few weeks but can then join in when you have had the time to put some things in the jar!)

Ask each person to draw or write down on one of the slips something they would like to say thank you for and put it in the jar. As we pray, pull a slip out of the jar and say thank you for what is written on it.

Continue to fill the jar during the week.

God, you are amazing and you have given us good things. We thank you for all your gifts to us.

Thank you for...

Amen

Thank you for...

Amen

Thank you for...
Amen

Continue until everyone has had a chance to say something.

Story and response

Listen to this week's story or read a story from the Bible. This week is the story of Jesus and the disciples in John 10.

I wonder which part of this story you liked the most?
I wonder what surprised you about this story?
I wonder what this story makes you feel?
I wonder where you are in this story?
Do you wonder anything about this story?

Prayers

The story of the Good Shepherd is a story that helps us to see what Jesus is like. In our story today we see that the good shepherd cares for the sheep, not because he's getting paid to do it but because he really loves them and really wants to care for them. The good Shepherd is willing to do difficult things so that he can look after the sheep and keep them safe. Jesus is the same. He loves us and cares for us, just as the good shepherd loves and cares for the sheep. Even when he faces danger and death he works to keep us safe and loved. Who do you know who you can rely on to keep you safe and feeling loved? Who helps to protect you from danger?

You will need: a stone, a black marker pen, white paint (optional)

Draw a sheep's face on the stone with the black marker pen. You might also want to colour the rest of the stone white to show the sheep's woolly coat. On the bottom of the stone, use the marker pen to write your name. Hold the stone and pray the prayer below.

Dear Jesus, thank you for loving us and wanting to keep us safe, just like the Good Shepherd who cares for the sheep in his flock. Thank you for those people we know within our friends and family who also love us and keep us safe. Help us to be people who love and care for others too. Amen

Close

Wherever we come together,
God is with us.
God is here.

May God bless us.
May we know that we are loved
May we know that we are cared for.
May we know God's hope.

God is with us
God is here
Amen.

Extinguish the candle.