

PreK-K

The Good Shepherd

Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference
John 10:11-18

Lectionary Sunday/
Church Season
Easter 4

Lesson Focus
Jesus takes care of us.



gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<p>Play Time Kids interact with elements of the story of The Good Shepherd.</p>	<p>Coloring Pages </p>	<p>Fabric (varying colors and textures), wooden blocks, stuffed animals (including sheep), crayons (including white), black paper</p>
<p>Circle Time Kids discuss sheep and shepherds as an introduction to The Good Shepherd.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Prayer Time Kids pray an echo prayer with their leaders.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>

open the bible (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<p>The Good Shepherd Storytelling Kids provide sound effects for the story of The Good Shepherd.</p>	<p>Spark Story Bible</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Lost and Found Sheep Scene Kids color and use stickers to retell the story.</p>	<p>Leaflets, Lesson stickers</p>	<p>Crayons or markers</p>

activate faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Everyone is Special Kids decorate sheep and a face outline on the leaflet.	Leaflets	None
Where is Jesus? Kids place Jesus stickers next to photos on the leaflet.	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	Cotton balls, tissue paper, markers
Streamers of Joy Kids sing and dance joyfully with handmade streamers.	None	Roll of crepe paper, craft sticks, clear tape

send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Good-bye Time Kids review the story and say a good-bye rhyme together.	Leaflets, Family Pages 	None
Prayer Time Kids pray together, echoing the leader's words.	None	None

gather (10 minutes)

play time

Set up some wooden blocks to look like a sheepfold. Set the rest of the blocks out, as well as the stuffed animals. In another area, set out the fabric pieces. As kids arrive, encourage them to build a block sheepfold to protect the stuffed animals. They can also dress up like a shepherd or sheep using the fabric pieces. Set out black paper and white crayons. Invite kids to draw symbols of Easter (cross, empty tomb, butterfly, and so on) on the paper. Provide copies of the downloadable Coloring Page for this lesson for kids to color. Be sure to help them put their names on their paper.

When everyone has had time to play, ask the kids to put away all of the supplies and join you in a circle on the floor.

As kids are putting things away and joining the circle, encourage them to join you in saying this rhyme:

**One, two, three-four-five,
Jesus really is alive!
Six, seven, eight-nine-ten,
It's time to gather with our friends!**

Repeat the rhyme as often as needed.

circle time

When all the kids have gathered, begin Circle time. **Welcome everyone. Let's see who's here today!** Start with the child to your left and continue around the circle using this pattern:

I'm glad you're here today; tell me your name. (The child responds by saying his or her name.) The whole group responds with: **Hi (name) _____!** Repeat the rhyme, encouraging kids to join in. Continue until all kids have been named.

As you came in today, some of you played with sheep. Raise your hand if you pretended to be a sheep or took care of sheep. Allow kids to respond. **Can sheep take care of themselves? (No.) What do we call a person who takes care of sheep? (Shepherd.) What kind of things does a shepherd do to care for the sheep?** Allow kids to respond, accepting all responses. Answers will vary. **In today's Bible story, we're going to hear about a sheep and a shepherd. Listen carefully to find out what the shepherd does for the sheep.**

Spark Resources

Coloring Pages



Supplies

Fabric (varying colors and textures)
Wooden blocks
Stuffed animals (including sheep)
Crayons (including white)
Black paper

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

prayer time

Before we get started today, let's pray. Repeat my actions and words.

Dear God, (Lift one hand to the sky)

Thank you for taking care of sheep, (Pretend to pet sheep)

And for taking care of me. (Hug self)

Help me to listen (Cup ear)

To your word now. (Hold hands like a book)

Amen. (Fold hands)

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

open the bible (15 minutes)

the good shepherd storytelling

It's time to hear a story from God's word, the Bible. This is the story of The Good Shepherd. Remember the sheep we talked about? There are sheep in this story! I need you to help be the sheep by making the sound that sheep make. What is that? (Baa!) When I point to you, you all say what sheep say, "baa!" When I put my hand down, you stop. Let's practice. Point to the kids and have them "baa." Put your hand down and have them stop.

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bible

Supplies

None

Take out your Spark Story Bible and pass out Bibles to the kids. Help everyone find the Good Shepherd story in their Bibles to follow along with you. Read The Good Shepherd. Point to the kids whenever there is a "baa" in the story. Encourage them to change the tone of their voices to match the situations in the story.

If desired, have the kids nod their heads and "baa" in agreement after the following sentences in the story:

- A good shepherd cares for each and every sheep in the flock. (Baa!)
- A good shepherd protects the sheep and keeps them safe. (Baa!)
- If a lamb is lost, the shepherd looks until it is found. (Baa!)

Following the story, allow the kids time to answer each of the following questions: Point to the shepherd holding the sheep. **Who found the lost sheep?** (*Shepherd.*) **Who said he was like a good shepherd?** (*Jesus.*) Point to the picture of the scared sheep in the Bible. **Have you ever felt scared? Who helped you when you were scared?** (*Parents, siblings, family, Jesus.*) **Jesus is always taking care of us, especially when we are scared and feeling lost. Jesus is our good shepherd!**

lost and found sheep scene

Gather the kids at a space where they can work. Hand out one leaflet to each child. Distribute crayons or markers so that all kids have access. Direct them to the front page. **Look at this picture. It's a picture from The Good Shepherd story. Where are the sheep?** (*In the valley, near the shepherd.*) **Let's color the sheep.** Allow time for kids to do so. **What happened to one of the sheep?** (*It was lost.*) Hand out the lost sheep sticker to the kids. **Put this sheep somewhere on your picture to show it is lost.**

Do you see something scary? (*Wolf.*) **What are some things that scare you?** (*The dark, spiders, etc.*) **Let's color the wolf.** Allow time for kids to do so. **In our Bible story, who found the sheep and takes care of them?** (*Shepherd.*) **Where is the Shepherd?** Have kids point out the shepherd. Distribute the sticker of the shepherd's face and invite kids to place it in the rectangular dotted outline.

Look, we made a picture that tells the story of The Good Shepherd! Who is our good shepherd? (*Jesus.*) **Jesus takes care of us and protects us, just like the shepherd in the story.**

Spark Resources
Leaflet
Lesson stickers

Supplies
Crayons or markers

activate faith (15 minutes)

everyone is special

Have kids turn their leaflets to the back side. Direct their attention to the "Everyone is Special" activity. **Point to the picture of the sheep at the top of the page. Look at your sheep, and then look at your neighbor's sheep. They look the same, right?** Allow kids to respond. **But that's not right! Every sheep is made special. A shepherd knows each one of his sheep, and loves each of his sheep, even though they are all different.**

Distribute the cotton balls, tissue paper, glue sticks, and markers. **Let's use these supplies to decorate each sheep in a special way.** Allow time for kids to decorate the sheep on their leaflet. Encourage them to use creativity so that all of the sheep in your group are different.

Wow! We have quite a flock of sheep! They are all different and all special, and their shepherd knows each one of them!

Just like sheep, we are all different! Look around. We have different eyes, hair, smiles, hobbies, and more! Invite kids to look around and observe the differences in the group. **Jesus knows each one of us and cares for us in special way.**

Point to the frame pictured next to the sheep. **Use the supplies to draw a picture of you in the frame. All of our pictures will be different because we are different. One thing is the same though . . . Jesus cares for all of us!**

Allow time for kids to work. If time allows, encourage kids to share their creations with others.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
Cotton balls
Tissue paper
Glue sticks
Markers

where is jesus?

Direct kids to the “Where is Jesus?” activity. Give them time to discuss the answers to following questions. **Look at the kids in these photos. Where are they and what are they doing?** (*Playing outside, in bed sleeping, eating at a table, with friends at school.*) **Do you do any of these things?** Let kids share their stories.

It looks like these kids don’t have a parent or adult around taking care of them. Who do you think is keeping them safe during their day? (*Parents, caregivers, Jesus.*) **Jesus said he is always taking care of us, just like a good shepherd. When we sleep, when we eat, when we play, and when we are at school or with friends, Jesus takes care of us!**

Hand out two Jesus stickers to each child. **Let’s put these stickers near the kids to remind us that Jesus always takes care of us.** Help kids position stickers between two photos so that Jesus is nearby all of the kids. Encourage a continued conversation of kids’ experiences of each of the photos if there is time.

Spark Resources

Leaflets
Lesson stickers

Supplies

None

streamers of joy

Right now, we are in the season of Easter at church. Hold up the leaflet, showing kids the egg icon at the top of the page. **What happy things do we celebrate during Easter?** (*Jesus is alive, Jesus is with me.*) **When we celebrate happy things we say we have “joy.” Let’s make some streamers to dance with as we sing a song about Easter joy!** Assist each child in tearing off a piece of crepe paper about the length of his or her arm. Distribute craft sticks and tape. Demonstrate how to tape the crepe paper to the end of a craft stick.

Hold your streamer in your hand and do the actions while we sing. Sing the following song to the tune of “If You’re Happy and You Know it.”

If you’re joyful and you know it, wave your hand. (Wave streamers.)

If you’re joyful and you know it, wave your hand. (Wave streamers.)

If you’re joyful and you know it, then at Easter time you’ll show it!

If you’re joyful and you know it, wave your hand. (Wave streamers.)

Repeat the song several times, inviting the kids to join in.

Spark Resources

Leaflet

Supplies

Roll of crepe paper
Craft sticks
Clear tape

send (5 minutes)

good-bye time

Gather the group together in a seated circle on the floor. **We enjoyed learning about sheep, shepherds, and how Jesus takes care of us, like a good shepherd, today!**

As you close, direct the kids' attention to the Faith on the Go! idea on the back of the leaflet.

We've learned the story The Good Shepherd and how the shepherd takes good care of his sheep. We also learned how Jesus takes care of us like a good shepherd. Jesus is taking care of us everywhere we go! When you take your leaflet home, ask your parents or caregivers about the Faith at Home idea. There's a game you can play to show how Jesus cares for you this week! Be sure to send leaflets home with kids, and give each of them a Family Page to take home.

Before we leave today, let's remind each other how Jesus is with us wherever we go. Direct kids to echo your words and actions.

It's time to say, "Good-bye." (Wave.)

We've learned a lot today. (Point to head.)

Jesus lives with me, (Tap shoulders.)

Each and every day. (Clap.)

Repeat the rhyme a couple of times, inviting kids to join in.

prayer time

Let's close with a prayer. Repeat the words after me.

Dear God,

Thank you for sending Jesus,

To take good care of me,

Everywhere I go,

Each and every day.

Amen.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

Grades 1-2