

LESSON



The Good Shepherd

GRACE

God brings His love to us.

References

Luke 15:4-7; *Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 186-192; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 476-484.

Memory Verse

"Be happy with me because I found my lost sheep!" (Luke 15:6, ICB).

Objectives:

The children will

Know that Jesus loves them as the shepherd loved his sheep.

Feel safe because Jesus cares for them.

Respond by saying thank You to Jesus.

The Message



Jesus cares for you and me.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

A shepherd has many sheep. But one day he discovers he has lost one. He searches everywhere until he finds it. He is so happy to take the sheep home to be with all the others!

This is a lesson about grace.

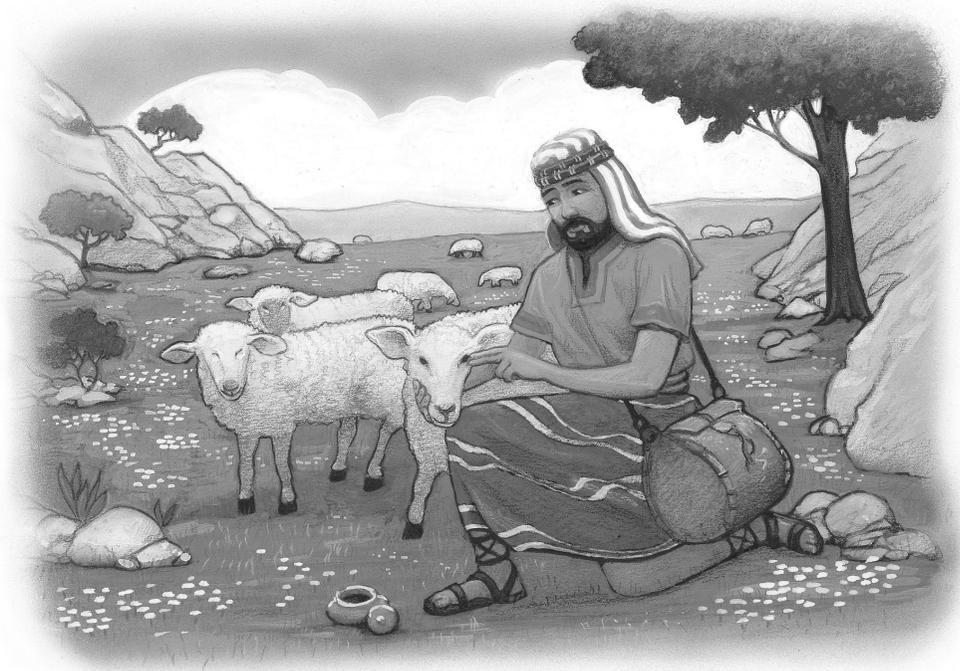
God's gift of grace includes watching over us wherever we go and whatever we do. Young children can understand and feel God's love through the love of their parents as the parents watch over them in every way.

Teacher Enrichment

"Of all creatures the sheep is one of the most timid and helpless, and in the East the shepherd's care for his flock is untiring and incessant. . . .

"As an earthly shepherd knows his sheep, so does the divine Shepherd know His flock that are scattered throughout the world. . . . Jesus knows us individually, and is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. He knows us all by name. He knows the very house in which we live, the name of each occupant. . . .

TWO



“However much a shepherd may love his sheep, he loves his sons and daughters more. Jesus is not only our shepherd; He is our ‘everlasting Father’” (*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 478-479, 483).

How are you showing the love of the Shepherd to your family and students?

Room Organization

Have children sit in a semicircle with parents sitting at their side.

Room Decorations

Decorate your room with an outdoor scene. If possible, create “mountains” that can be climbed (can be rocks or wood or wooden boxes), a stream (paper or fabric), something to represent grass (green paper or fabric, imitation grass). Make a cave for the sheepfold with a sheet or build it with boxes, chairs, bamboo, or something easily available where you live.

Program Overview

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students	
1 Parent Time	up to 5		
2 Arrival Activities	up to 10	<p>A. <i>Animals</i></p> <p>B. <i>Peekaboo Box</i></p> <p>C. <i>Nesting Toys</i></p> <p>D. <i>Pets</i></p> <p>E. <i>Hide-and-Seek</i></p> <p>F. <i>Rock-a-bye Baby</i></p> <p>G. <i>Rocking Chair</i></p>	<p>toy stuffed animals, blocks or boxes or a sheet, green paper</p> <p>box, hand towel or fabric, play objects</p> <p>toy sheep, nesting dolls or boxes or bowls</p> <p>live pet</p> <p>small object or toy animals</p> <p>dolls, blankets, quiet music, child-sized rocking chair</p> <p>adult-sized rocking chair</p>
3 Getting Started	up to 10	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Prayer</p> <p>Visitors</p> <p>Offering</p> <p>Birthdays</p>	<p>mirror or toy stuffed sheep, bells</p> <p>stickers or other small gifts (optional)</p> <p>offering container</p> <p>artificial birthday cake, candles, matches, small gift (optional)</p>
4 Experiencing the Story	up to 30	<p>A. <i>Memory Verse</i></p> <p>B. <i>Naming and Counting the Sheep</i></p> <p>C. <i>Sheep Fleece</i></p> <p>D. <i>Sheepfold</i></p> <p>E. <i>Feed the Sheep</i></p> <p>F. <i>Drink of Water</i></p> <p>G. <i>Hurt Sheep</i></p> <p>H. <i>Nighttime</i></p> <p>I. <i>Sheep Search</i></p> <p>J. <i>Memory Verse</i></p>	<p>small felt or cardboard Bibles</p> <p>toy stuffed or plastic sheep or sheep masks, adult to play shepherd, simple costume for adult, walking stick, ear and nose pattern (see p. 73), cotton balls, elastic thread or rubber band, stapler, white paper plates, pink and black construction paper, scissors, glue sticks</p> <p>fleece or something similar</p> <p>blocks or boxes or chairs, sheet</p> <p>grass or shredded green paper or green fabric strips or hay</p> <p>bowl of water or individual cups of water</p> <p>hand lotion or baby oil, bandages or masking tape (optional)</p> <p>parent and child to hide at prearranged time</p>

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
		<p>K. <i>Jesus, The Good Shepherd</i></p> <p>L. <i>Jesus Gives Us Families</i></p> <p>M. <i>Our Families Feed Us</i></p> <p>N. <i>Our Families Love Us</i></p> <p>O. <i>Jesus Loves Me</i></p> <p>P. <i>Jesus Cares for Me</i></p> <p>Q. <i>Thank You, Jesus</i></p> <p>R. <i>We Love Jesus</i></p>	<p>picture or stand-up cutout of Jesus</p> <p>picture or stand-up cutout of Jesus; plastic, felt, etc., of family members</p> <p>pots or plastic bowls and mixing spoons; or artificial food and a basket</p> <p>“Jesus Loves Me” banners or rainbow sticks or rhythm instruments</p> <p>pictures or stickers of Jesus</p> <p>picture or stand-up cutout of Jesus, felt or paper hearts</p>
5	Make and Take (Optional)	up to 10	
	Week 1	<i>Fingerprint Sheep</i>	heavy paper, ink pad or marker, felt-tip pen, cotton balls, glue sticks, baby wipes or water and paper towels
	Week 2	<i>Sheepfold</i>	paper cups, construction paper, cotton balls, black paper, hole punch, glue sticks
	Week 3	<i>Paper Bag Lambs</i>	lunch-size paper bags, cotton balls, markers, glue, copies of sheep face pattern (see p. 74)
	Week 4	<i>Stick Sheep</i>	wide craft sticks or tongue depressors, paper, cotton balls, glue, markers, copies of lamb’s face pattern (see p. 75), scissors, stick-on magnets (optional)
	Week 5 (Optional)	<i>Stick Shepherd</i>	wide craft sticks or tongue depressors, tissues or small pieces of fabric, string or chenille sticks, markers, cotton balls, pretzel sticks, glue sticks, stick-on magnets (optional)
	Snack Center		round crackers, sandwich spread, flaked coconut, pretzel sticks, raisins, plastic bags (optional)

1

PARENT TIME

Busy parents often arrive at church tired and worn out from the week's activities and from getting the family ready for the "day of rest." Share a word of encouragement with them sometime during Sabbath School (possibly during Arrival Activities), something that will express your care and concern for them. The following statements were prepared by young mothers and fathers as suggestions, and may be used at your discretion at any time you wish.

Week 1

I used to be a decent, respectable human being. I knew how to organize things, accomplish things, finish a project. Then my son was born. Suddenly everything in my life seemed total chaos! My house was a mess, my body was a mess, my life was one big mess. How could it be that at this wonderful time in my life I felt so awful? I began to attend a mother's group that became my lifeline. It met only twice a month, but that was twice a month that I knew I wasn't alone! God used other people who were going through the same things to lift me up and help me remember that He knew me. God knows YOU! He feels every emotion you experience. He says to you, "I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you" (see John 14:18, KJV).

What are some things we can do to strengthen and encourage one another?

Week 2

Amy smiled. *I've actually accomplished something this morning!* she thought. The floor was mopped, and 22 cups of granola cereal cooled in a bowl on the counter. Going into the bedroom, she shut the door behind her. While the boys napped she could make a couple

of phone calls and fold some laundry.

Unknown to Amy, her 2-year-old was NOT asleep. He went to the kitchen, pulled a chair over to the counter, and proceeded to dump all 22 cups of fresh granola onto the floor. Then he added a big box of dry cereal. He continued the adventure by emptying the full garbage can on the mess. About that time Amy came into the kitchen. . .

Ever had that kind of day? Jesus understands. He calls you to Him. He knows your frustration. And He will pick up the pieces.

Share a time your child undid all the work you had done and the frustrations you felt. In those moments, what can help YOU remember God's love and care for you?

Week 3

One afternoon we took a walk. For some reason, our almost 3-year-old had decided that a walk was NOT what he wanted to do. He asked, "Daddy, will you carry me?" I answered him teasingly, "Oh, son, you're too big for me to carry!" Crossing his little arms firmly across his chest, he answered with determination, "Well, I am NOT too heavy for JESUS!"

Share a time the burdens of parenthood seemed heavy. Turn to someone near you and remind them, "NOTHING is too heavy for JESUS!"

Week 4

Here's a precious thought of encouragement today! Put YOUR name in each of the blanks: "Jesus knows the burden of _____'s heart. He is _____'s best friend in every emergency. His everlasting arms support _____" (Ellen White, *Bible Echo*, Sept. 1, 1893). (Read this

through more than once, to give everyone the opportunity to let the thought really sink into their hearts.)

Week 5

My friend, a nurse, was used to working the night shift. After her baby's birth she expressed her feelings of exhaustion

and amazement at what a lot of time it took to care for a newborn. "I'm doing OK with the baby being up a lot at night, but I keep wondering when the day shift is coming in!" Remember in times like these that Jesus knows your feelings.

Share a time you felt exhausted and needed a break.

2

ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES

Plan simple play activities on a blanket, sheet, or quilt for children who arrive early. The children participate in these activities, under the supervision of an adult, until the program begins. The child's play should be with materials that relate to the program, which is based on the monthly Bible story.

Choose from the following suggested activities for this month. Be sure to include something for the span of children's ages.

A. Animals

Provide toy stuffed animals (some that make noises) for the children to hold. If possible, provide adult and baby animals for the children to match. Build a cave for the animals with blocks or with a sheet and two chairs. Let the children put the animals in their "house." Provide green paper for the older children to shred or crunch and then feed to the animals.

B. Peekaboo Box

Place a piece of fabric or a hand towel and play objects such as blocks, rattles, balls, stuffed animals, etc., into a box. Parents can hide an object under the fabric and let children play peekaboo to find something hidden, as the parent says this rhyme:

Peekaboo

Let's see who

Finds a (name of the object)

that got lost (child picks up the object).

(Name) did! (Hug the child. Affirm the child.)

C. Nesting Toys

Hide a small object (could be a small toy sheep) inside or under a nesting toys set. (Nesting dolls, different size boxes, or plastic containers all work well.)

Children will open the nesting toys until they find the lost sheep or other object.

D. Pets

Bring in a small pet (turtle, bird, fish, hamster, kitten, or puppy) that children can look at, touch, and feed. Ask them to name the animal, make the sound the animal makes, and tell what it eats.

E. Hide-and-Seek

Hide objects or toy animals inside a box, under a chair, or in other places in the room. Ask the children to find them. When they find the animal, say: **How happy we are that we found the lost (name of the animal or object).** *Option:* Have children hide under a table. Have the other children or parents look for them.

F. Rock-a-bye Baby

Provide a child-sized rocking chair and dolls and blankets for the children to hold and rock while singing or listening to music.

G. Rocking Chair

Provide an adult-sized rocking chair for parents to hold and rock children who are too tired or shy to join in the activities.

3 GETTING STARTED

A. Welcome

You Need:

- hand mirror or toy stuffed sheep
- bells

Say: **Good morning, boys and girls, and moms and dads! I'm so glad you're here this morning! Can we say good morning to each other?**

Welcome each child personally as you sing the following song. (Suggestions: Hold a mirror up to each child's face so they can see

themselves, or take a stuffed toy sheep to each child, shake each child's hand, etc. Encourage adults to greet each other with a hug, handshake, etc.)

Sing: "Good Morning to You" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 3).

Good morning to you,
 Good morning to you,
 How are you today?
 Good morning to you,
 Good morning to you,
 This happy Sabbath day.

—Mildred Adair

Give bells to the children. Say:
Sabbath is a special day. We are happy to be at Sabbath School. Let's ring our bells as we sing.

Sing "Happy Sabbath" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 235).

Sabbath is a happy day,
 Happy day, happy day,

Sabbath is a happy day,
 I love every Sabbath.

—Margaret Kennedy

B. Prayer Time

Say: **We talk to Jesus when we pray. Let's kneel down while we talk to Jesus now.** Prepare for prayer by singing the adapted fourth verse of "I Have Hands That Clap" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 215).

I have knees that bend for prayer,
 I have eyes that close for prayer,
 I have hands that fold in prayer.
 Now I talk to Jesus.

—S. Vance. Adapted.

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Pray a simple prayer similar to the following and have the children repeat your words: **Dear Jesus, thank You for Sabbath School. Thank You for Bible stories. Thank You for listening to our prayer. We love You. Amen.**

Sing: "Tiny Tot Response" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 21).

Thank You, Jesus, for everything.
 Amen.

—Joy Hicklin Stewart

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C. Visitors

You Need:

- stickers or other small gifts (optional)

Greet the visiting children and parents. You may choose to give the visitors a sticker or other small gift. Sing "We're Glad You Came to Our Sabbath School" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 25).

We're glad you came to our Sabbath school.
 Won't you come again?
 We're glad you came to our Sabbath school.
 Won't you come again?
 —Mary E. Schwab

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D. Offering

You Need:

- offering container

Say: **Jesus loves everyone. Jesus loves little boys and girls. Jesus loves mommies and daddies. We can help others know Jesus loves them too. We share our money so others will learn about Jesus.**

Use a basket, a bank, or some other container for the offering. Invite children and parents to give their offerings to Jesus. Sing "God Loves a Cheerful Giver" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 29).

God loves a cheerful giver,
 God loves a cheerful giver,
 Cheerful, cheerful, cheerful giver,
 God loves a cheerful giver.
 —Janet Sage

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Say: **Thank you, boys and girls, for bringing your offering. Let's ask Jesus to bless your gifts.** Pray a simple offering prayer.

E. Birthdays

Say: **It's a special day for _____ . It's his/her birthday!** Lead the child to the birthday chair. Sing "Happy Birthday!" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 38).

Just two* years old today,
 Just two* years old today;
 Happy birthday, happy birthday!
 Jack's* two* years old today.
 —C. Harold Lowden

*Insert child's name and age.
 Copyright Heidelberg Press.

You Need:

- artificial birthday cake
- candles
- matches
- small gift (optional)

Light the birthday candles and then lead in singing "Happy Birthday to You."

Happy birthday to you,
 Happy birthday to you,
 Jesus loves you, dear [child's name],
 Happy birthday to you.
 —Traditional. Adapted.

Encourage the child to blow out the candle(s). Say: **Let's thank Jesus for your birthday.** Have a short prayer for the birthday child and their parents. If possible, give the child a small gift from Sabbath School.

4

EXPERIENCING THE STORY

A. Memory Verse

You Need:

- felt or cardboard Bibles

Say: **It's time to look in our Bibles.** Distribute small individual felt or cardboard Bibles to the children. Sing "Jesus Talks to Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 51).

Bible, Bible, Jesus talks to me.
 Bible Book, let me look, Jesus talks to me.
 Bible, Bible, Jesus talks to me.
 Bible Book, let me look, Jesus talks to me.

—Susan Davis

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Say: **Our Bible story today is about a man who lost one of his sheep. He loved his sheep, so he looked and looked until he found it. When he found it he said to his friends, "Be happy with me because I found my lost sheep." That's our memory verse today.**

Clap each time you sing the words "found my sheep" to the tune of "I'm So Small" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 96).

Be happy with me, I found my sheep,
 Be happy with me, I found my sheep,
 Be happy with me, I found my sheep.
 That is found in Luke 15 verse 6.

—Adapted from Luke 15:6, ICB

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B. Naming and Counting the Sheep

Directions for sheep mask:

You Need:

- for each child, toy stuffed or plastic sheep or sheep mask
- adult to play the shepherd
- Bible-times costume for shepherd
- walking stick
- white paper plates
- pink and black construction paper
- a copy of the ear and nose pattern (see p. 73)
- cotton balls
- scissors
- glue sticks
- elastic thread or rubber band
- stapler

To make a mask for each child, have the parent begin with a white paper plate. Cut out holes for eyes. Cut the ears out of pink paper and the nose out of black paper (see patterns on page 73). Glue the nose and ears to paper plate. Add cotton balls. Staple the elastic band to each side just above the ears.

Dress as the shepherd and tell the story, or ask another adult to be the shepherd while you narrate. The children will either hold and use the toy sheep during the entire program or wear their sheep masks and pretend to be sheep. Before you begin the story, ask one adult and a child to be the lost sheep and to hide at the appropriate point in the story.

Say: **Once there was a shepherd who had many sheep.**

Invite the children to bring their toy sheep or

wear their sheep masks and come sit on the floor near the shepherd. **The shepherd loved each of his sheep. He knew each of their names. There's Hannah, and Brian, and Rachel, and Daniel.** (Use the names of each of the

children in your class.) **The shepherd knew what was special about each sheep.** (Name characteristics about the children in your class, such as the oldest, youngest, biggest, littlest, hair color, etc. Be sensitive to differences that might be embarrassing.) **Each one of the shepherd's sheep was special, and the shepherd loved each one. He loved the big grown-up sheep, and he loved the little baby lambs. Every morning the shepherd counted to make sure all of his sheep and lambs**

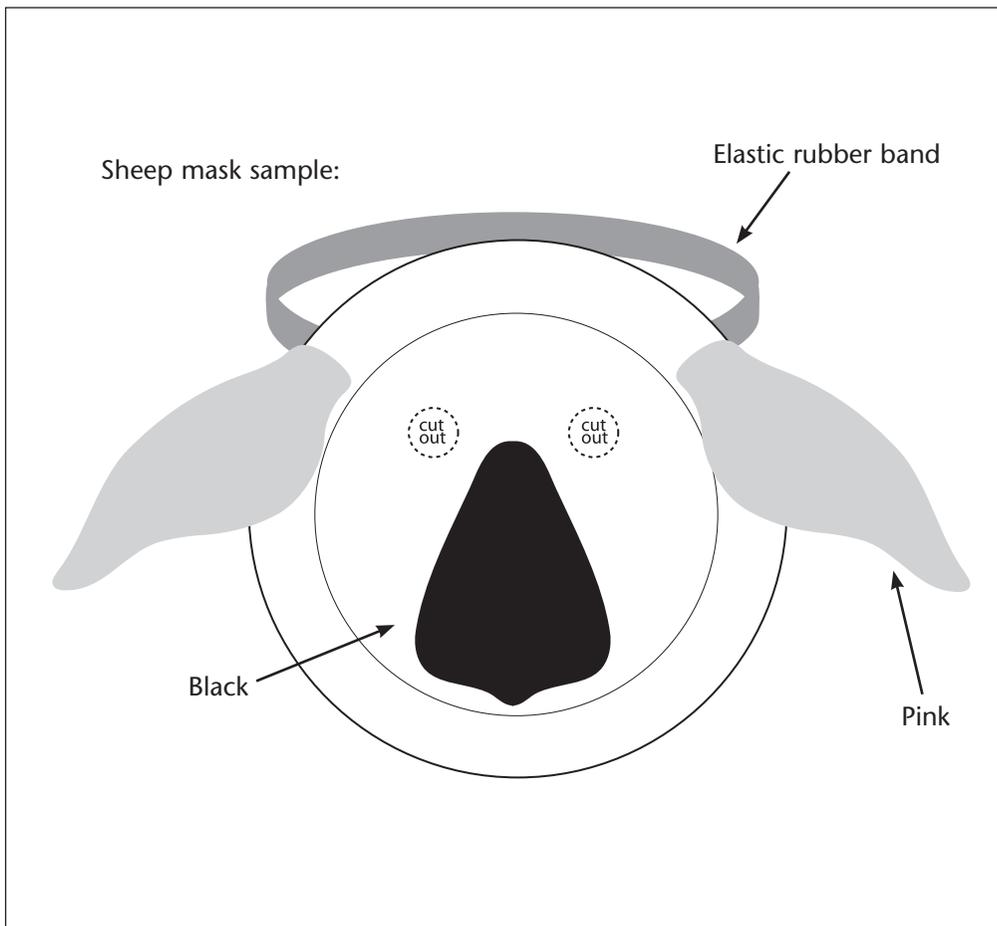
were there. One, two, three . . . (Count the children. Invite them to count with you.) **Yes, they were all there. The shepherd was very happy.**

Pat, hug, or in some other way express affection for each of the children as you sing "The Shepherd Loves His Lambs" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 114).

The Shepherd loves His lambs, and
Jesus loves me.
The Shepherd loves His lambs, and
Jesus loves me.

—Enid G. Thorson

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Note: Save the masks for use each Sabbath this month.

C. Sheep Fleece

You Need:

- ☐ a piece of fleece or something similar

Say: **Sheep and lambs are very soft. People use their soft wool to make cloth. Each spring the shepherd gives the sheep a haircut to get their soft wool. The sheep like having their heavy coats cut off before the hot summer.**

Give each child an opportunity to touch the fleece while you sing "Woolly, Woolly Lamb" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 171).

Woolly, woolly lamb,
Woolly, woolly lamb,
Jesus made you soft and woolly;
Woolly, woolly lamb,
Woolly, woolly lamb,
Jesus made you soft and woolly.

—Janet Sage

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D. Sheepfold

You Need:

- ☐ materials to build a sheepfold (blocks, boxes, or chairs covered with a sheet)

Say: **The shepherd built a sheepfold for his sheep. He wanted them to have a place where they would be safe from wild animals and bad storms.** Let the children help you build the sheepfold; then crawl inside. Sing "The Good Shepherd" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 123) while you build the cave or while sitting inside the cave with the children.

The good shepherd watches,
so sheep may safely feed.
He keeps them from danger
and gives them all they need.

—Carol Greene

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E. Feed the Sheep

You Need:

- ☐ grass or shredded green paper or green fabric strips or hay

Say: **Each day the shepherd took his sheep to a place where they could find good food.** Give "grass" to the children to feed to their sheep while you sing the following words to the tune of "The Hungry Cow" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 174).

Cow" (Little Voices Praise Him, no. 174).

Jesus made the grass for the hungry sheep;
Let's feed the sheep, let's feed the sheep;
Jesus made the grass for the hungry sheep;
Let's feed the hungry sheep.

—Janet Sage. Adapted.

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F. Drink of Water

You Need:

- ☐ a bowl of water or individual cups of water

Say: **The sheep needed water every day too. Each day the shepherd led his sheep to a place with clean, fresh water.**

Invite the children to bring their toy sheep to get a pretend drink out of the bowl, or give each child some water to drink. Sing "The Good Shepherd" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 123).

The good shepherd watches,
so sheep may safely feed.
He keeps them from danger
and gives them all they need.

—Carol Greene

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G. Hurt Sheep

You Need:

- hand lotion or baby oil
- bandages or masking tape (optional)

Rub a drop of hand lotion or baby oil into each child's hand or arm. If desired, cover the area with a bandage or little piece of masking tape. Sing "The Good Shepherd" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 123).

The good shepherd watches,
so sheep may safely feed.
He keeps them from danger
and gives them all they need.

—Carol Greene

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You Need:

- parent and child

H. Nighttime

Turn out the light.

Say: **When it started getting dark, the shepherd took all of his sheep back to their sheepfold. Do you remember why? Yes, so they would be safe from storms and wild animals. The shepherd wanted his sheep to be safe because he loved them. Let's take our sheep home.**

Signal for the parent and child to hide instead of coming to the fold. Lead the rest of the children to the sheepfold. Say: **Are all the sheep and lambs here? The shepherd wanted to be sure they were all safe for the night. So he counted his sheep:**

Say: **Sometimes the shepherd's sheep got hurt. They might run into scratchy bushes or get cut or hurt another way. Then the shepherd put medicine on their wounds.**

one, two, three . . . (Invite the children to count with you. Call the children by name and remember some of the characteristics you mentioned earlier in the program.) **But wait! Something is wrong! Earlier we had** (name the number) **of sheep and now we have** (one less). **Someone is missing! Who is it?** See if the children can help you identify who is missing.

I. Sheep Search

Say: **What do you think the shepherd did when he found out one sheep was missing? Did he go inside his house and have supper? No. Did he crawl into his warm bed? No. The shepherd could never rest as long as one of his precious sheep was missing. Maybe his sheep was hurt. Maybe it was in danger. The shepherd couldn't leave his sheep out by itself. The shepherd went searching for his lost sheep.**

Pretend to search and search for the hiding child. Call out for the sheep during the search. When you find the "lost" parent and child say: **Oh, I've found my lost sheep! I'm so happy! I was so worried about my lost sheep, but now I have found him/her.**

Sing "Rejoice, I Have Found My Sheep" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 176).

Rejoice, I have found my sheep.
Rejoice, I have found my sheep.
I have found my sheep,
Rejoice, Rejoice, Rejoice,
I have found my sheep.

—Janet Sage

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J. Memory Verse

Say: **The shepherd was so happy, he told all his friends that he had found his lost sheep. He said to them, “Be happy with me because I found my lost sheep!”**

Clap each time you sing the words *found my sheep* while singing the following song to the tune of “I’m So Small” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 96).

Be happy with me, I found my sheep,
Be happy with me, I found my sheep,
Be happy with me, I found my sheep.
That is found in Luke 15, verse 6.

—Adapted from Luke 15:6, ICB

Give different children an opportunity to hide and be found, singing the memory verse song each time a new child is found. This will reinforce learning the memory verse.

You Need:

- picture of or stand-up cutout of Jesus
- plastic or felt “family members” of different ages

as the shepherd loved his sheep.

Invite the children to bring their “family members” and place them beside the picture of Jesus while you sing the following to the tune of “Jesus Gave Me a Mommy” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 251).

Jesus gave me a family. They love me,
I know.

Jesus gave me a family. They love me,
I know.

—Joy Hicklin Stewart. Adapted.

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K. Jesus, the Good Shepherd

Say: **Jesus loves and cares for us, just as the shepherd loves and cares for his sheep.**

You Need:

- a picture of or a stand-up cutout of Jesus

Invite the children to bring their toy sheep or their sheep masks and place them close to the picture or cutout of Jesus. Sing “The Shepherd Loves His Lambs” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 114).

The Shepherd loves His lambs, and
Jesus loves me.

The Shepherd loves His lambs, and
Jesus loves me.

—Enid G. Thorson

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L. Jesus Gives Us Families

Say: **Just as the sheep have a shepherd to take care of them, Jesus gave us families to take care of us. Jesus gave us families to take care of us because He loves us, just**

M. Our Families Feed Us

Say: **One thing our families do to take care of us is to give us good food to eat.** Give each child a pot or bowl and a mixing utensil to pretend to cook with or a piece of artificial food to put in a basket. Sing “My Family” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 252).

You Need:

- pots, pans, plastic bowls, etc. (toy or real)
- wooden or other mixing spoons or a variety of artificial food
- a basket

My family cooks good food for me,
my family cooks good food for me,
My family cooks good food for me,
I love my family.

—Edith Smith Casebeer. Adapted.

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N. Our Families Love Us

Say: **Can you think of another way our families show us love? Does your family hug and kiss you?**
Encourage parents to hug and/or kiss their children while you sing “My Family” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 252).

My family hugs and kisses me,
My family hugs and kisses me,
My family hugs and kisses me,
I love my family.
—Edith Smith Casebeer. Adapted.

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P. Jesus Cares for Me

Give each child a picture of Jesus to hold or a sticker of Jesus for the back of their hand while you sing “Yes, Jesus Cares for Me” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 118).

Yes, Jesus cares for me.
Yes, Jesus cares for me.
He gives me my home
and my food and my clothing.
Oh, yes, Jesus cares for me.
—Enid G. Thorson

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You Need:
 picture of Jesus for each child or sticker of Jesus for each child

O. Jesus Loves Me

You Need:
 “Jesus Loves Me” banners or rainbow sticks or rhythm instruments

Say: **Our families love us very much and care for us. Who else loves you and cares for you? Jesus does!**

Give each child a banner or rainbow stick to wave or a rhythm instrument to use while you march and sing “Jesus Loves Me” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 102).

Jesus loves me! this I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong,
They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.
—William Bradbury

Q. Thank You, Jesus

Give each child a heart with their name written on it. Invite them to bring their hearts to Jesus while you sing “The Good Shepherd” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 123). If you use paper hearts, pin or tape them to “Jesus” so they stay in place.

Lord Jesus, our Shepherd, we
thank You for Your care.
We know that You love us; we’re
safe with You anywhere.
—Carol Greene. Adapted

You Need:
 picture or stand-up cutout of Jesus
 felt or paper heart for each child with their name written on it

R. We Love Jesus

Say: **Jesus loves us so much that we want to love Him back. Let’s tell Him that we love Him.**

Have the children hold up their pictures of Jesus or point to the sticker of Jesus on their hand as you sing “I Love Thee, O Lord” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 208).

I love Thee, O Lord.
(Repeat five times.)

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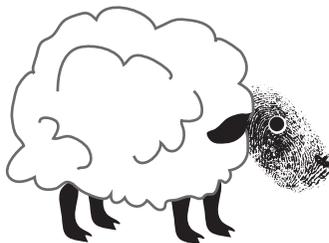
5 MAKE AND TAKE (Optional)

Week 1 Fingerprint Sheep

You Need:

- heavy paper
- ink pad or marker
- felt-tip pen
- cotton balls
- glue sticks
- baby wipes or damp paper towels

Press each child's index finger onto the ink pad (or color the finger with a marker) and press onto the paper. This will be the sheep's head. Glue a cotton ball onto the paper behind the head for the sheep's body. Use the felt-tip pen to draw facial features and legs. Clean fingers with baby wipes or paper towels.



Week 2 Sheepfold

You Need:

- paper cups
- construction paper cut into 2" x 1/2" strips
- cotton balls
- black construction paper and a hole punch
- glue sticks

Give each child a paper cup and several strips of construction paper. Show the children how to glue the strips of paper in vertical stripes around the cup to create the "fence" around the sheepfold. Give each child 10 cotton balls and small black paper circles punched from the construction paper. Glue two black "eyes" onto each cotton ball. These are the sheep. Let the children practice counting the sheep as they put them in the sheepfold.

From *More Than Mud Pies: Bible-Learning Crafts & Games for Preschoolers* (Loveland, Colo.: Group Publishing, 1998), pp. 88, 89. Used by permission.

Week 3 Paper Bag Lambs

You Need:

- lunch-size paper bags
- cotton balls
- markers
- glue sticks
- copies of sheep face pattern (see p. 74)

Cut out the sheep's face pattern. (See page 74.) Allow children to color it, if desired. Glue the face to the bottom of the paper bag. Glue cotton balls around the face.

Week 4 Stick Sheep

You Need:

- wide craft sticks or tongue depressors
- paper
- cotton balls
- glue sticks
- markers
- copies of lamb's face pattern (see p. 75)
- scissors (blunt-nosed)
- stick-on magnets (optional)

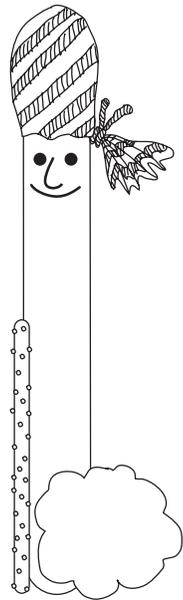
Copy the lamb's face pattern (see p. 75) onto a piece of white paper. Leave enough space for a child's handprint on the same page. Give each parent and child one copy of the face. Ask the parent to trace the child's hand onto the piece of paper, then cut out the handprint and the lamb's face. Demonstrate how to glue the handprint (with fingers pointing down) below the lamb's face onto the craft stick, then add cotton balls for wool. Attach a magnet

to the back of the stick if desired. (See sample illustration on page 75.)

Week 5 (or optional activity)
Stick Shepherd

You Need:

- wide craft sticks or tongue depressors
- tissues or small (three- to four-inch square) pieces of fabric
- string or chenille sticks
- markers
- cotton balls
- pretzel sticks
- glue sticks
- stick-on magnets (optional)



Create a headdress for the shepherd by folding one edge of the tissue or fabric over

the front of the craft stick and pulling the rest of it to the back of the stick. Tie it with a piece of string or secure it with a chenille stick. Draw a shepherd's face with the marker. Glue on a pretzel stick for a staff and a cotton ball for a lamb. Attach a magnet to the back if desired.

Bible Activities (optional)

If there is still time, families may choose from a variety of activities that reinforce this month's Bible story. Those activities listed as Arrival Activities may be used again. In addition, you may want to provide a snack at one table.

Snack Center*
(optional)

You Need:

- round crackers
- spread
- flaked coconut
- pretzel sticks
- raisins
- sealable plastic bags (optional)

Use a spread suitable for your class on a round cracker. Create a face with the raisins. Use pretzel sticks for legs. Sprinkle flaked coconut on the spread for sheep's wool. (Children may put the finished "sheep" in a sealable plastic bag and take it home.)

*Be aware of any food allergies, and adjust the snack accordingly.

Closing

Say: **Jesus loves us and cares for us just as a shepherd cares for his sheep. Jesus even calls Himself our Shepherd.** Close with a short prayer similar to the following: **Dear Jesus, thank You for loving us and caring for us just as a shepherd cares for his sheep. We love You, Jesus. Amen.**

As the children prepare to leave the room, sing "Good-bye Prayer" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 44).

It is time to say good-bye now,
But first a prayer we pray,
"Dear Jesus, keep and bring us back
Again next Sabbath day."
—Kathleen Maguire

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STUDENT LESSON

The Good Shepherd

References

Luke 15:4-7;
Christ's Object Lessons, pp. 186-192; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 476-484.

Memory Verse

"Be happy with me because I found my lost sheep!" (Luke 15:6, ICB).

The Message

Jesus cares for you and me.

Baa! says the woolly lamb. Woolly Lamb wants his mother. Baa-baa! Don't worry, little lamb. The shepherd will help you.

Wake up, shepherd! It's time to get up. *(Point to the shepherd, then the sheep.)*

Wake up, sheep! It's time to nibble the thick, green grass.

Wake up, Woolly Lamb! *(Point to the black lamb.)* It's time for breakfast. Baa-baa!

Don't move, fluffy sheep. Don't move, Woolly Lamb. It's time for the shepherd to count the sheep.

(Touch child's nose for each count.) 1-2-3-4-5. The shepherd is counting the sheep. 21-22-23-24.

Are all the sheep safe?
 97-98-99-100! Yea!
(Clap hands.)

All the sheep are counted. All the sheep are safe.

The sun is high in the sky. The sun feels hot. The sheep feel thirsty. Woolly Lamb stays close to mother sheep. Sniff-sniff! *(Pretend to sniff.)* The sheep smell water.

Let's run to the water. *(Run to the sink; drink water.)*

Walking, walking. The sheep are tired of walking. "Let's stay here for a while," the shepherd says. But big flies buzz about the sheep. *(Point to the flies.)* Buzz-buzz! *(Tickle your child.)*

Flies buzz Woolly Lamb's eyes. Flies buzz Woolly Lamb's nose. Woolly Lamb stamps his feet. *(Stamp feet.)* All the sheep stamp at the flies.

Don't move, fluffy sheep, don't move! The shepherd takes care of each sheep. *(Touch child's face.)* The shepherd takes care and counts *(Touch child's nose and count.)* 97-98-99.

Uh-oh! Woolly Lamb is not here. Where is Woolly Lamb?

"Woolly Lamb, where are you?" *(Child hides face with tissue.)*

Is Woolly Lamb in the pool? *(Point.)* No, he is not there. *(Shake head.)* Is he near the rocks? *(Point.)* No, not there.



Where is Woolly Lamb? Shh! Listen. *(Your child says, "Baa!")*

Oh, there you are! *(Remove tissue; hug child.)*

Baa-baa! Woolly Lamb is safe. Thank you, shepherd, for finding him. Thank you, shepherd, for bringing him back.

Thank You, Jesus, for loving our own little lamb. *(Hug child. Spin with child around the room.)*

- 1.** You and your child play making different animal sounds. Thank God for animals.
- 2.** Make up a little song about the shepherd and the sheep or, with your child, sing one that you learned in Sabbath School.
- 3.** Look for things with different textures. With your child, touch them and talk about how different things feel. Look for a texture that feels like sheep's wool.
- 4.** Play hide-and-seek with your child. Hug him/her when you find him/her. Then sing the memory verse song.
- 5.** In a box or drawer, put things related to the lesson (cotton or toy sheep, some food, water in a plastic bottle). Use them to tell the Bible story to your child.
- 6.** Put some food for birds on a bird feeder, or let your child help you feed some animals at the park.
- 7.** Tell the lost sheep story while playing "Follow the Leader." Crawl under the table, climb "mountains" (pillows), and so on.
- 8.** Make a trail with paper streamers. Have your child find his/her way to the "lost

Do & Say

Study these suggestions for something to do each day with your child. Select those that are appropriate for your child's developmental stage and repeat them often.

- sheep" by following the streamers. Sing "The Good Shepherd" (learned in Sabbath School).
- 9.** With your child, make an edible sheepfold and sheep. Make the sheepfold with bread, cookies, or fruit pieces. Make sheep out of banana pieces or some other fruit covered with coconut.
 - 10.** Sing a song or make one up about mother sheep and other animals taking care of their babies.
 - 11.** Along with your child, using blocks, build a sheepfold for the sheep.
 - 12.** Hide a toy stuffed animal. You and your child can look for it and sing the memory verse song when you find it.
 - 13.** Show your child how to model some sheep with play dough or make cookies with the shape of sheep or a shepherd's staff.
 - 14.** Have your child say thank You to Jesus for giving them a mommy and/or daddy to take care of them.
 - 15.** Play a call-and-respond game. Parent calls: "Little lamb, little lamb, where are you?" Child answers with animal sound. (Repeat with other animals.)