

Life of Christ

The Good Shepherd

John 10:1-42

Younger Verse

"I am the good shepherd." John 10:11"

Older Verse

I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep." John 10:11

Bible Story

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do NOT read to the children.

What do you know about sheep? (Allow your students to answer.) What sound do they make? Well, did you know that sheep's wool is scratchy and gets really heavy when it is wet? So, if they go to the stream to get a drink, they need someone to help them find still water, not gushing water, because they could drown if they fall in. And did you know that sheep sometimes like to wander off? If they wander off and get into trouble, they do not know how to fight back. Sheep will also just eat and eat and eat some more. They need someone to help them and to find new grass when they have eaten all there is. They need protection. Sheep are not very smart. They need someone to show them where to go and to watch them very closely.

The people who take care of sheep are called "shepherds." Even though sheep are not very smart about many things, they learn the sound of their shepherd's voice and will not follow a stranger. In fact they run from strangers. Not all of the people who care for sheep are good, but a good shepherd knows every one of his sheep, not just as a group, but individually. A good shepherd needs to be strong; there are bears and wolves to fight! A good shepherd need to be willing to risk his life for his sheep; sometimes, the bears and wolves win. A good shepherd needs to be alert; people will even come at night and try to take their sheep. A good shepherd needs to be smart; all of his sheep are different. A good shepherd needs to be patient; some sheep like to wander away. A good shepherd need to be caring; sheep can easily become sick from pests.

So, how important do you think it is that sheep have a good shepherd? Do you think they could survive very long on their own? Probably not! In John, chapter ten, Jesus says that He is the Good Shepherd!

Lesson Goals

To see how we are like sheep.
To see that Jesus is our Good Shepherd.

Jesus also says that He is the door to the sheepfold or pen. Anyone who comes to the sheepfold through Him will be saved and will have an amazing, abundant life. So, Jesus is the Good Shepherd. What does that mean? It means that those who believe in Him are His sheep. That does not mean that we become sheep when we believe in Jesus, it is a way to explain the kind of relationship we have with Him.

In John 10 Jesus says, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. "I and the Father are one." (27-30) When we believe in, and trust in, and follow Jesus, we become His, we are always His. He tells us that nothing can snatch us from His hand—that same hand that measures the great big universe! (Is 40:12) Our memory verse says that the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. If Jesus is the Good Shepherd, and He says He is, and if we are His sheep, how did He lay down His life for us? He gave Himself to die on the cross for each one of us. Jesus even said that no one took His life from Him; He gave His life and when we believe that He is God's Son, who died for my sin and your sin, we become His sheep. And once we become His sheep, we are safe and secure, and NOTHING can snatch us out of His big hand!

Are you Jesus' sheep? Have you come to God by trusting in and believing in Jesus? If you haven't, please choose Him. He gave His life in place of yours for the price of sin. And if you are His sheep, you have a very Good Shepherd in Jesus! He is patient, and goes after you when you do wrong. He is strong and will fight to keep you. He is alert; He never takes a nap. He is always watching you. He knows everything about you. Do you know Him? He wants you to know Him as much as He knows you.

**Memory Verse
Activity**

Make a poster of the memory verse. Using cardstock, cover up the memory verse word by word or phrase by phrase. Remove the cardstock, one at a time, from beginning to end. Practice the memory verse, phrase by phrase. Then cover the memory verse again and remove random phrases to continue practicing.

Prayer Time

Pray, thanking God for being our Good Shepherd, for giving His life for us, and for caring for us.

Preparing for Next Week

Lesson 24
Lazarus Lives!
John 11:1-45

Preschool Lesson

Jesus Cares for Me!

Sing: “Mary had a Little Lamb”

Mary had a little lamb,
Little lamb, little lamb,
Mary had a little lamb,
Its fleece was white as snow

And everywhere that Mary went,
Mary went, Mary went,
Everywhere that Mary went
The lamb was sure to go

Teach: Begin by making animal sounds and have your preschoolers guess what animal it is. End with the sheep sound.

The Bible tells us that we are like sheep! No, we are not woolly and we do not make sheep noises. We are like sheep because sheep need someone to care for them. Sheep do not always know what they should do. They do not think very well sometimes. Sheep need a very good shepherd. Sheep may not be smart enough for some things, but sheep know the voice of their shepherd and will follow him anywhere. Sheep need a good shepherd to show them where the cool water is. They need a good shepherd to show them where the green grass is. Sheep need a good shepherd to protect them from hungry bears and angry wolves. Sheep also need a good shepherd to pick them up and carry them home when they have wandered away. And sheep need a good shepherd to keep them from dangerous things.

And just like sheep, we need someone to care for us. Jesus is our Good Shepherd! Just like sheep need cool water and green grass, we need to read the Bible and hear it being taught. We need protection from things that are dangerous. We need someone to remind us when we are not doing the right thing. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, does these things for us. He does them when we learn about the Bible. He uses our Bible Study leaders and our parents to help us know what is right and to remind us to stay away from what is wrong. Jesus cares for us! Jesus cares for YOU!

Pray: Thank you, God, for caring for me!

Activities

- Provide coloring pages and word puzzles that will enhance what you have taught today.
- Make fingerprint sheep with a stamp pad or markers.
- Make sheep. Use any of the following: toilet paper tube, thread spools, paper plates, cotton balls, pom-poms, shearling fabric, fiber-fil, etc.
- Make edible sheep with marshmallows and licorice. Use frosting as the “glue.”
- Bring a cane, a bathrobe and a stuffed sheep toy to class. Allow your students to act out the story.
- Play “Tag.” The student who is “it” is the shepherd looking for his sheep (all other students). Base is the “sheepfold.”
- Sing: “Mary Had a Little Lamb”
- Bring books and pictures and more information about sheep. Have older students who are interested, make a list of the characteristics of sheep. Then, have them think about how we are like that with God.