

Old Testament

The sheep & goats

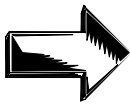
Ezekiel 34:1-24

Younger Verse

Jesus said “I am the good shepherd.” John 10:14

Older Verse

Jesus said “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.” John 10:14



Teachers: This unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament.

PLEASE remember to always include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God’s ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

Welcome Time

Play a fun game and get to know the kids—encourage them to bring their friends.

Bible Study Time

Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do NOT read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.

Today’s lesson is in the book of the Bible called Ezekiel. Ezekiel was a prophet. Do you remember someone else who is a prophet? (Isaiah, Jeremiah, etc.) Do you remember what a prophet does? (tells people what Jesus does; a messenger)

We’ll call Ezekiel, Zeke, for short. One day Zeke saw a big windstorm with unusual animals and a big wheel and little wheel. Then, God spoke to Zeke. Zeke listened to God and God told him some good news. He told Zeke that He would help the people. At that time the people were hostages in a foreign land. They were held captive by other people. God gave the people hope that they would one day be free!

Zeke also told the people a story about 2 animals. In Chapter 34, Zeke tells about sheep and goats. What kind of sound does sheep make? (baaaa) What kind of sound does a goat make? (naaa)

Zeke explained that God is like the Good Shepherd. Remember a shepherd is a person that takes care of sheep. He makes sure they have plenty of green grass to eat. He also protects them from wild animals or dangerous places.

He tells the people that God will take care of His people (the little sheep). Zeke gives them hope and lets them know that God will find all the sheep that have been scattered.

Lesson Goals

Know that God is always watching and helping us
See that we have a choice—to be good or not
Explain how God is like a Good Shepherd

What a relief for the people. They knew that since they were hostages in a strange land, they were far from their country. They did not know if they would EVER get back home. Zeke told them good news—God would help the people find their way home, just like a shepherd helps the sheep get back home safely.

I'm sure the people were so excited to know that God had not forgotten them. They were in so much pain and had so much suffering. Now they knew for sure that God was there and He would care for ALL their needs.

Zeke also told the people that God would be a judge. He explained that God will look at each animal—sheep and goats. He would definitely know the difference between a real sheep and a fake sheep (a goat).

Then, God took Zeke to a valley filled with skeleton bones. God wanted to help His people know that He would take care of them. First, Zeke called to the bones and they became connected together. Then, muscle and skin formed around them. Finally God gave them breath and they were alive. God explained to Zeke that in the same way, one day all the people would be free to return to their hometown. They would no longer be hostages!!

God also promised Zeke and His people something special. He told them that a ruler or king would come to lead them. Do you know who that is? It's Jesus. Yes, Jesus loves us and wants to be in control of our lives. Jesus died on a cross and came back to life 3 days later. He did this so that if we trust Him, we can be in Heaven with God. He did that for YOU! If you would like to know more, talk to me anytime. I'll share what it means with you.

Learning Activities

Try different ideas to help the kids understand what it means to be a Christian. Be sensitive to their needs.

Memory Verse Activities

Dress the kids up as shepherds and talk about the responsibilities of a good versus bad shepherd. Talk about how God is our Good Shepherd and ways that He helps take care of us.

Prayer Time

Take time to ask for requests. Be sure to pray for every one of them. Take time to write a note to the children this week. They love mail!

Snack Time/CleanUp

Tell the kids they're having sheep food today. Find some good snacks and let them munch away!

Planning for Lesson 89
Daniel does right
Daniel 1:1-21

Preschool Lesson
For
Ezekiel

One day a man named Ezekiel (Zeke) saw a big windstorm. The tree limbs swayed in the wind. Zeke's clothes flapped in the wind. Sand also blew everywhere. Zeke saw an interesting animal and a big wheel and little wheel. Suddenly God spoke to Zeke and gave him a message to tell the people.

God wanted His people to know that He loved them and cared for them. They were having hard times and God wanted them to know that soon they would have happy times again. The people were so glad to hear the news!

Then, Zeke told them a story about sheep. What kind of sound does sheep make? (baaaa)

Zeke explained that God is like the Good Shepherd. Remember a shepherd is a person that takes care of sheep. He makes sure they have plenty of green grass to eat. He also protects them from wild animals or dangerous places. He finds delicious water for them to drink and cares for their wooly coats.

Zeke told the people that God will take care of His people just like the shepherd took care of the sheep. The people were so happy to hear this news. They knew that God would keep His promise to them!

Sing this song to the tune "Are you Sleeping?"

E-E Zeke-iel, E-E Zeke-iel, He loved God, He loved God.

G o- d told him, t-o-give a message. He did it. He did it.

He told the people, he told the people, g-o-o d news, g-o-o d news

They would be happy, they would be free. God loved them. God loved them.

Hands-On Activities
For
Ezekiel

Use a variety of pasta to make a skeleton. Glue pasta to a piece of construction paper.

Make a circular loom weaving to resemble what the kids think the big wheel looked like that Ezekiel saw.

Sing the song “Them Bones” or “Ezekiel saw the wheel.”

Try a variety of “Sheep” crafts like gluing cotton balls on a piece of paper and adding legs to resemble a sheep.

In the lesson, the shepherd will separate the sheep and goats. Write the name “sheep” and “goats” on objects (like straws or ping pong balls). Let the kids close their eyes and choose an object. Let them sort the objects. Another game would be for them to close their eyes and try to choose only the “sheep.” If they choose a “goat” they are out of the game.
