

Lesson 31

God's Sheep

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Ages 2-5

Opening Prayer to welcome the start of the session. For example:

"Dear God, we thank you for bringing us together. Help us to learn from your words and follow in your footsteps. Amen."

Discussion:

Ask the children what they know about sheep. Talk about their caretaker, the shepherd. Explain how the shepherd takes care of the sheep and how important each sheep is to the shepherd.

Bible Story:

Read the following passages:

Psalms 42:22

John 10:27

Discussion:

Ask the children who are the sheep and who is the shepherd according to the Bible. Emphasize that God is our shepherd because He watches over us just like a shepherd would watch over his sheep.

Activity:

Have the children make sheep.

Materials needed:

Cardstock or some other thick paper
Black markers
Cotton balls
Glue

Pre-cut sheep from the thick paper (at least one for each child). Then have the children draw mouth, nose and eyes and glue cotton balls on to make their sheep soft.

Drama:

Talk about what a shepherd does to take care of his sheep, such as feeding them, bringing them back if they get lost from the rest, loving them, etc.

Have the children play the roles of sheep and the shepherd. Let each child have a turn to be the shepherd and “take care of” the sheep (the rest of the children).

Song:

Sing the song Sheep (to the tune of Bingo).

It is our Lord who takes care of us,
We are His sheep,
S-H-E-E-P,
S-H-E-E-P,
S-H-E-E-P,
We are his Sheep.

Closing Prayer to thank God for taking care of us. For example:

“Dear God, thank you for helping us learn about you today. Thank you so much for knowing us and taking care of each of us. Amen.”

Ages 6-8

Opening Prayer to open the session. For example:

“Dear God, thank you for bringing us together to learn more about you this morning. Please help us to learn from your words and follow in your footsteps. Amen.”

Discussion:

Ask the children what they know about sheep. Talk about their caretaker, the shepherd. Explain how the shepherd takes care of the sheep and how important each sheep is to the shepherd.

Bible Story:

Read the following passages:

Psalms 42:2

John 10:27

Discussion:

Ask the children who are the sheep and who is the shepherd according to the Bible. Ask the children why God is our shepherd. Ask what He does that is like what the shepherd out in the fields.

Activity:

Have the children make sheep.

Materials needed:

Construction paper

Crayons or Markers

Cotton balls

Glue

Give the children construction paper and crayons or markers and let them draw pictures of sheep and a shepherd. Then let them glue cotton balls on the sheep. When they are done with their picture help them write, "We are God's sheep and He is our shepherd."

Drama:

Talk about what a shepherd does to take care of his sheep, such as feeding them, bringing them back if they get lost from the rest, loving them, etc.

Have the children play the roles of sheep and the shepherd. Let each child have a turn to be the shepherd and "take care of" the sheep (the rest of the children).

Closing Prayer to thank God for being our shepherd and taking care of us. For example:

"Dear God, thank you for being our shepherd and taking care of us. Please help us to stay close to you so that we can stay safe. Amen."

Ages 9-11

Opening Prayer to open the session. For example:

"Dear God, thank you for bringing us together to learn more about your words. Please help us to follow in your footsteps and become closer to you. Amen."

Discussion:

Ask the students to tell each other what they know about shepherds and how they care for their sheep.

Bible Story:

Have the students read the following passages:

Psalms 42:2

John 10:27

Discussion:

Ask the students how we are similar to sheep and how God is similar to a shepherd.

Activity:

Play the “Who’s Missing” game.

Have the students close their eyes. When you tap two students on the shoulder have them step out of the room and stand just outside the door or sit somewhere in the room where they cannot be seen. Then have the others open their eyes and see if they can figure out who is missing. Repeat a couple of times. Then, challenge the students by having only one student step out. Play this at least as many times as it takes for each student to get a turn to be the missing one.

Discussion

Talk about how God, our shepherd, notices when any one His sheep is missing and goes looking for them, just as they noticed when one of their classmates was missing.

Activity:

Play search for the people.

Materials needed:

Large bin or several smaller bins

Sand

Large blanket (to set under the bin or bins)

Small people (such as Fisher Price people or other small figures)

Before class fill the bin(s) with sand and bury the people in the sand. Then when you are ready to do this activity explain that there are people down in the sand.

Give each student the opportunity to find at least 2 people. After everyone has had the opportunity to dig through the sand at least two times discuss how their search is similar to God’s search for people. Emphasize that God looks for his lost people just as they searched in the sand for lost people.

Closing Prayer to thank God for being our shepherd. For example:

“Thank you for our class today God. Thank you for the fun that we have had and the lesson that we learned. Thank you for being our shepherd and taking such good care of us. Please keep us safe in your care. Amen.”

Ages 12-14

Opening Prayer to open the session. For example:

“Dear God, thank you for the opportunity to meet in your presence today. Help us to learn more about you and what you have done for us. Lead us in your footsteps as we journey together. Amen.”

Discussion:

Have the students turn to their shoulder partners and tell them everything they know about sheep and the shepherds that take care of them.

Bible Story:

Have the students read the following passages:

Psalms 42:2

John 10:27

Discussion:

Ask the students, according to the Bible, who the sheep are and who the shepherd is.

Activity:

Play the “Who’s Missing” game.

Have the students close their eyes. When you tap two students on the shoulder have them step out of the room and stand just outside the door or sit somewhere in the room where they cannot be seen. Then have the others open their eyes and see if they can figure out who is missing. Repeat a couple of times. Then, challenge the students by having only one student step out. Play this at least as many times as it takes for each student to get a turn to be the missing one. When the game is finished talk about how God notices when one of us are “missing” or not following Him just as they noticed who was missing from their class.

Activity:

Have the students do a comparison chart.

Materials needed:

Poster board

Markers

Have the students get into partners. Give each group a piece of poster board and have them write out similarities between God and a shepherd who takes care of sheep in the fields. Then have them write ways that we, God’s children, are like sheep. Let them decorate their posters then have them share them with the class. Hang the posters up in the classroom as a reminder to the students that God is our shepherd and will take care of us.

Closing Prayer to thank God for taking care of us, his sheep. For example:

“Thank you God for bring us together today to learn more about you and Jesus. Thank you for being our shepherd and taking care of us, your sheep. Keep us safe in your care. Amen”