



December 2, 2020
Small Group 4th - 5th grade

THE GOOD SHEPHERD | John 10

Memory Verse: ²⁵ "All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

JOHN 14:25-26

Big Picture Question: What did Jesus teach when He was on earth?

Bottom Line: I live for Jesus because He died for me.

Christ Connection: Jesus is the Good Shepherd. God sent Him to rescue sinners. Jesus laid down His life for His sheep so they could have forgiveness and eternal life. When we believe in Jesus, we are His sheep who listen to, follow, and obey Him.

LARGE GROUP: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways.

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Next Steps As we continue our journey through the Bible, it is important to always remember that we are studying the bible so that we will grow to love, follow, and obey Jesus. We aren't just learning to know things. We are learning so that we will do things that honor God. What is your next step? You can talk about this in your group, but begin to think about it now:

- Believe: believe that you are a sinner who needs a Savior and Jesus is your Savior because He died for you and rose again.
- Get baptized: show your faith by getting dipped back in the water and raised out of the water.
- Read your Bible and pray: read your Bible and pray every day so that you get to know God personally
- Serve others: serve others at home, at school, and at church.

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect (40 Minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

Bible Skills and Discussion

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do: Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help kids find John 10. Explain that in John 10, Jesus was teaching in Jerusalem. Point out that many Jewish leaders were listening to Jesus' teaching. In Bible times, leaders were often referred to as shepherds of the people. When Jesus taught that He is the Good Shepherd, He showed that He is better than any other leader or king. He is our true King. Choose a volunteer to read aloud John 10:14-15. Then ask the following questions.

Discussion Questions

- **How will sheep know their shepherd?** (by his voice, John 10:3-4)
- **Why does a thief come?** (only to steal, kill and destroy; John 10:10)
- **What does the good shepherd do?** (lays down his life for the sheep; John 10:15)
- **Why do you think Jesus compares people to sheep?** Guide kids to understand that sheep are animals that need guidance. On their own, they cannot thrive. Help them understand that using the imagery of sheep also calls back to Psalm 23 and Old Testament figures like David, Moses, and Jacob.
- **How can we become part of Jesus' flock?** Guide kids to see that Jesus' flock includes all people who have faith in Jesus. We cannot earn salvation, but God gives it freely to all who believe the truth of the gospel. Remind kids that salvation comes by grace through faith.
- **How do you feel knowing that no one can snatch us from Jesus?** Lead kids to find and read John 10:28. Guide kids to discuss their feelings. Help them see that everyone who has faith in Jesus has eternal life. Explain to them that Jesus' promise is not based on our behavior but on His power and goodness. Share your thoughts about these promises.
- **How do you feel knowing that Jesus knows each of His sheep personally- by name?** Invite kids to share their thoughts.. Emphasize that each person is created in the image of God. He knows us each by name. Jesus said that no one can take His sheep away from Him. He knows us and cares about us. (Read- Luke 12:7)
- **What can you do when you feel lost and God feels far away?** Encourage kids to consider how lost sheep react. They cannot find their way back on their own, but when they cry out, the shepherd hears and rescues them. We can cry out to God, seeking Him through prayer and His Word. He will bring us back to Himself. (Read- Psalms 77:1)
- **How can the way you live point others to Jesus as the Good Shepherd?** Lead kids to discuss how living sacrificially can give kids the opportunity to tell others about the sacrifice Jesus made for us. Remind kids that as Jesus' sheep, believers should seek to listen to, follow, and obey Him. (Read 1 Timothy 4:12)

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster, sticky notes with words of Memory Verse written on several notes

What You Do:

Before the session, write the memory verse as words or phrases on separate sticky notes. Scatter the notes around the room. Display the memory verse poster. Lead kids in reading aloud John 14:24-26 together.

Challenge kids to find and collect the parts of the memory verse on the sticky notes around the room. Invite kids to work together to arrange the memory verse in the correct order. When kids finish, lead them to read the memory verse together.

What You Say: "What did Jesus teach when He was on earth? Jesus taught about God and His kingdom. He taught that all scripture is about Him. Jesus' ministry on earth lasted for three years. Jesus promised that when He left, He would send the Holy Spirit to help them - and He did!"

Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Journal page (1 for each kid), markers/crayons, Bibles

What You Do: Distribute journal pages and pencils. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What do we learn about following God from today's passage?
- What is one thing that God is teaching you right now?
- Where is one area that you would like to be closer to God?

- What is your next step to keep loving, following and obeying Jesus? (Believe, Baptism)

When your kids identify their next steps, take note and circle back to them so that you can help them and give them/their parents resources to help them take their next step.

- Pray for your group. Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd and we are Your sheep. When we foolishly wander away, You bring us back. You gave up Your life so that we can have eternal life. You even know us by name. When we feel lost or scared or alone, help us cry out to You. Help us to listen to, follow, and obey You. Amen.