

PARENT TAKE HOME

Jesus the Good Shepherd

John 10:1 through 18

BIG IDEA

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who knows us, leads us, gave His life to save us, and is alive today.

MEMORY VERSE

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

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

Jesus used the picture of a shepherd because His listeners understood how much sheep depended upon someone to lead, protect, and care for them. When Jesus called Himself the Good Shepherd, He was telling us something about who He is.

Jesus knows His people personally, leads them in truth, and does not abandon them when caring becomes costly. Most importantly, Jesus said the Good Shepherd would lay down His life for the sheep, which points directly to the cross.

WHAT YOUR CHILD LEARNED TODAY

Today's lesson actually began in John 9, where Jesus healed a man who had been blind from birth. Instead of celebrating with him, some religious leaders questioned him harshly and eventually threw him out.

Then something beautiful happened. Jesus heard what they had done, went looking for the man, and found him.

Soon afterward Jesus began teaching about shepherds and sheep. That setting helps us understand His words. Some leaders had failed to care for this man, but Jesus had searched for him and brought him closer.

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd." He explained that a good shepherd knows the sheep and stays with them when danger comes. Then Jesus went much further and said that the Good Shepherd would give His own life for the sheep.

Jesus was preparing His followers to understand the cross.

WHY THIS MATTERS

The lesson is not mainly about children becoming better "sheep." The sheep are not the heroes. Jesus is.

God is holy and good, but all of us have sinned and wandered from His ways. We cannot erase our guilt by trying harder or doing enough good things.

Jesus, God the Son, became truly human without ceasing to be God. He lived without sin and willingly died on the cross for our sins. Then He rose again.

Everyone who turns from sin and trusts Jesus is forgiven and receives eternal life. That is why Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He did for us what we could never do for ourselves.

TRY THIS AS A FAMILY

Choose one person to give two or three simple directions while everyone else follows, such as, "Take two steps forward," or, "Turn toward the door."

Then open the Bible and read John 10:27 together: "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."

Remind your child that we learn the truth about Jesus by knowing His Word. Feelings can change, but God's Word gives us something dependable to follow.

A QUESTION CHILDREN MAY ASK

If Jesus is the Good Shepherd, why do Christians still get hurt?

Jesus never promised that following Him would mean nothing painful could happen. Christians still experience sickness, loss, disappointment, and other difficult things.

Even Jesus suffered and went to the cross. His promise is deeper than an easy life. Jesus does not abandon His people, He gives eternal life, and because He rose from the dead, suffering and death will not have the final word.

When we do not understand the road ahead, we can still trust the Shepherd who has already shown us His heart.

HOW DO WE HEAR JESUS' VOICE?

Jesus said His sheep know His voice, but this does not mean every thought or feeling in our minds comes from Him.

God has given us His Word. The Bible teaches us what Jesus actually said, what He loves, and how He leads His people. The Holy Spirit helps believers understand and obey Scripture, but He will never lead us against what God has already said.

Jesus will never lead us away from God's Word.

TALK ABOUT IT AT HOME

1. What happened when other people pushed the healed man away?

Suggested answer: Jesus went looking for him and found him.

2. What does that show us about Jesus?

Suggested answer: Jesus knows and cares for people personally. He does not treat His people as though they are forgotten.

3. Why did Jesus call Himself the Good Shepherd?

Suggested answer: He wanted us to understand that He knows His people, leads them, cares for them, and gave His life to save them.

4. What happened after Jesus died?

Suggested answer: Jesus rose from the dead. Our Good Shepherd is alive today.

PRAY TOGETHER

"Father, thank You for sending Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Jesus, thank You for knowing Your people and giving Your life for our sins. Thank You that You rose again and are alive today. Holy Spirit, help our family understand God's Word and follow Jesus with trust. When we feel afraid, forgotten, or unsure about what comes next, help us remember that our Good Shepherd has not left us. Amen."

A FINAL THOUGHT FOR PARENTS

You do not need to know the answer to every question your child asks about God. It is perfectly faithful to say, "I do not know, but let us see what the Bible says."

What matters most this week is helping your child see the Shepherd clearly. Jesus knows His people, He does not abandon them, He gave His life to save sinners, and He rose again. When the road ahead is difficult to understand, our hope does not rest in knowing every turn.

Our hope rests in knowing the Shepherd.