

Family Craft & Activity Pack

Aimed at families with Children but fun for all ages!

WEEK 7

EASTER 4 Year A

Jesus is the Good Shepherd

(John 10: 1-10)



The Good Shepherd — John 10.1–10 (NRSV)

Jesus said to the Pharisees: 'Very truly, I tell you,

anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know

the voice of strangers.' Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.'

Jesus loves us as a Shepherd cares for his sheep

This Gospel reading focuses on the importance of recognising that Jesus is our guide, protector, and leader. There are several elements described in this passage from John: sheep know the voice of their shepherd; the Good shepherd guards His flock; a shepherd belongs with His sheep, and anyone else trying to break in will not succeed. Communication is important, between us and God, through Jesus who watches the entrance to the Kingdom and loves his sheep. We can trust and rely on Jesus.



Jesus is the Good Shepherd



Jesus described Himself as the Good Shepherd, willing to guard us and ultimately He promised He would lay down His life for us, which he did upon the Cross (Good Friday) overcoming death with new life (Easter Day). But just like the sheep fold and the person who guards the entrance to keep the sheep inside safe, only letting in the shepherds that belong to the sheep, there are other people or other ideas which can attempt to lead us astray or lie to us about what is most important. Jesus is the only one we should put our trust in—we should listen to Him. We can take heart in the truth of what Jesus promised, because He already accomplished our salvation through His death and resurrection. Thank you Jesus!

A reflection and Bible Study on the theme of The Good Shepherd.

Take a good look at this picture and think about the words of Jesus in the Gospel Reading: John 10: 1-10.



Picture above:

A flock of sheep on a hillside, following the Shepherd. The sheep listen to the voice of the Shepherd.

Questions:

- 1. (John 10.11), Jesus says, 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.' How did Jesus do this?
- 2. Sheep need a shepherd to take care of them. We can see sheep in the fields as we travel through the countryside here in Surrey, especially around local reservoirs, and it is important that the sheep are placed where they can get all the things that they need to stay healthy. What do sheep need?
- 3. A shepherd must place them in good pastureland where they can get water as well as food. In the dry area where Jesus lived, it was important that shepherds led their flocks to good pasture and streams of water. What do you need from Jesus to be close to God?
- 4. Who guards the entrance to the sheep-fold and why?

Story: A few years ago, there was a news story about a sheep who got stuck on a ledge in a cliff. Locals nicknamed her Aretha in honour of Aretha Franklin's famous song, 'Rescue me'. Someone spotted Aretha stuck on a ledge, but no one was sure how she had got there. Sadly, in the end, rescue teams were unable to get to her.

There is a Bible story about a shepherd who looks for a missing sheep. It is found in Luke 15.3-7. The shepherd of a flock of a hundred sheep notices that one of them is missing. He leaves the other 99 and goes in search of the missing one. Jesus uses the story to illustrate that he would never give up on us. He loves us very much and he knows that we need his love and protection. This is why he is a good shepherd.

Prayer: Dear God, Thank you that Jesus, your Son is our Good Shepherd. Thank you that you know our names and that you care for us. Thank you that you know all the dangers we can face in life. Thank you that you never want us to walk alone. Help us at this time to know you are with us always. **Amen.**

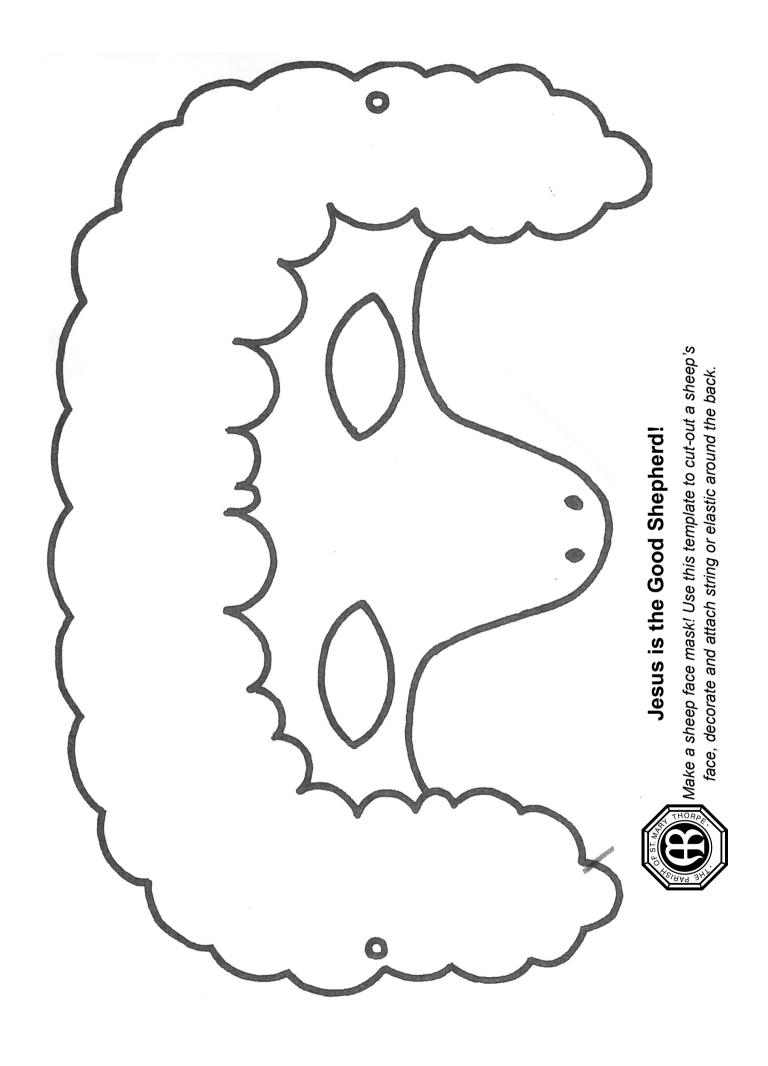
EASTER 4 — YEAR A

Jesus is the Good Shepherd!





SHEPHERD



Acts 2.42-47

Many were baptized and were added to the community. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.

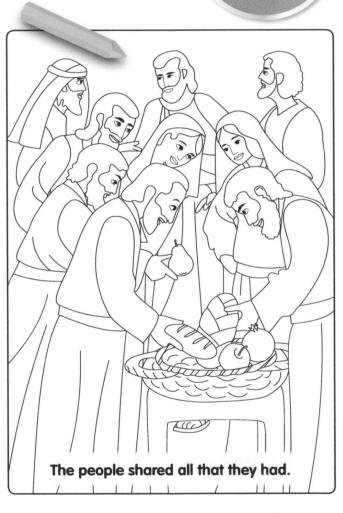


Today's Bible reading

Acts 2.42-47

We see today how all God's followers pray together, share together, learn together and serve together.

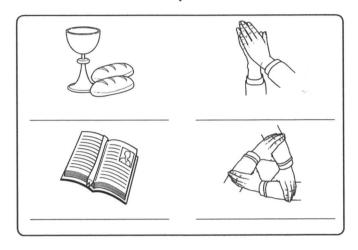
What is the best thing for you about belonging to God and belonging to God God's family?



Activity 1

The early Christians shared Eucharist, prayers, learning and fun.

What can you do to live as the early Christians did? Make this look really colourful.



Activity 2

Try to find the different ways we belong.

share pray help love care give

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Live your faith!

Consider how your family might pray together, learn together, remember Jesus together and have fun.

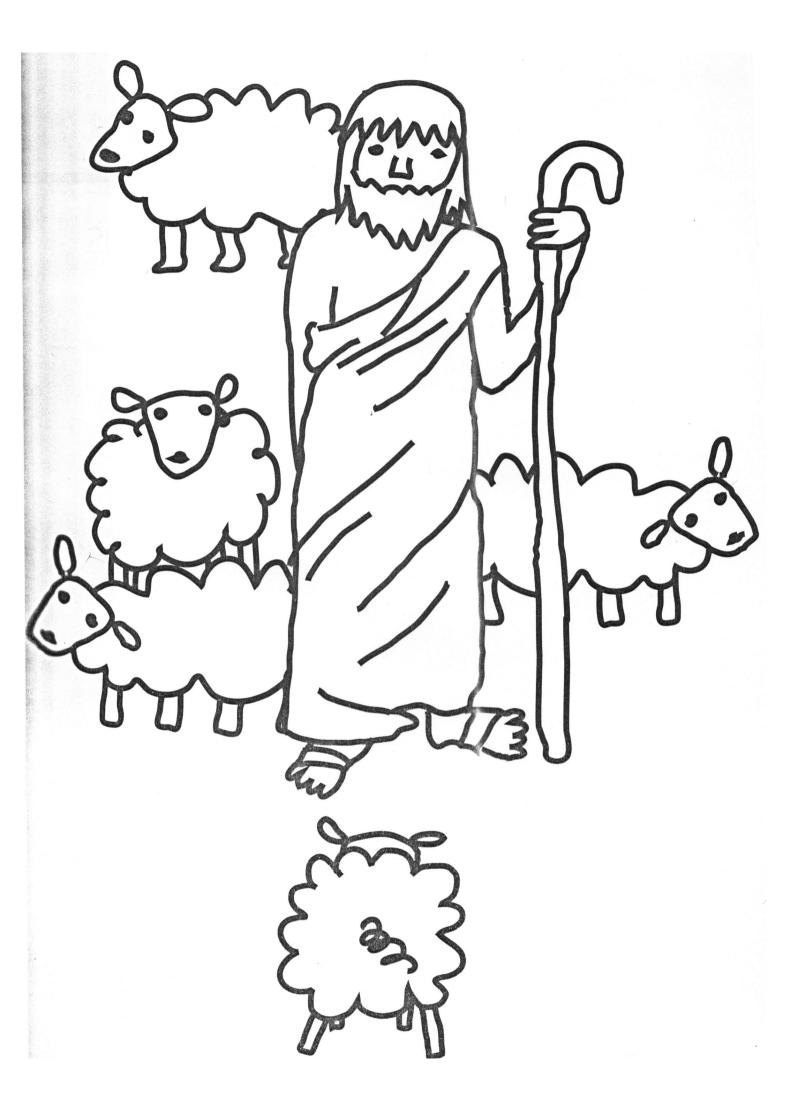


Loving God,

We thank you that we belong to you and we belong to each other. Help us to include others in your family and show them how great you are.

Amen.





Jesus said

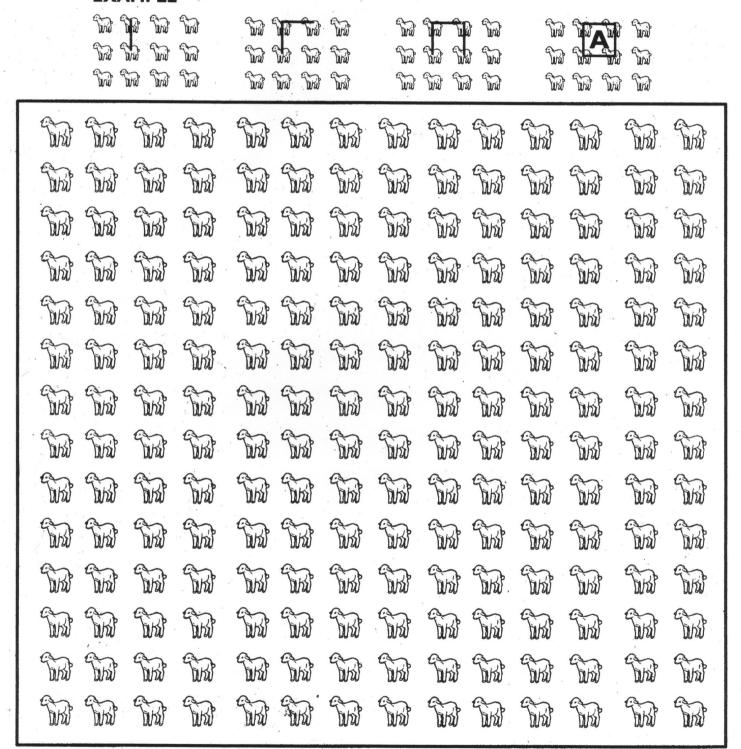


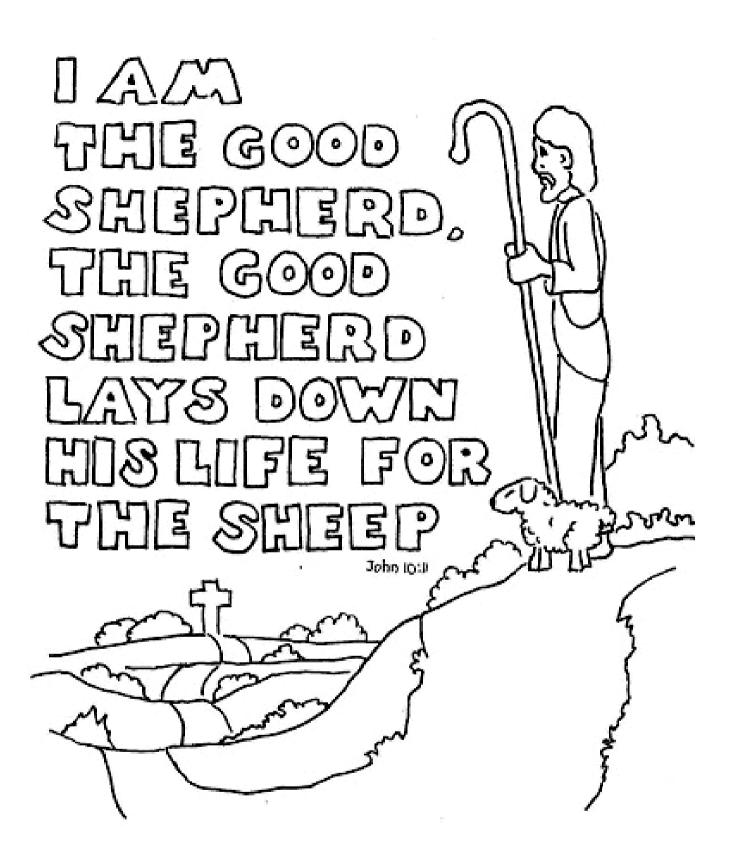
Listen to Him!

Shepherd Game

Here's a fun game you can play! Each player takes turns connecting the sheep, one line at a time, to make a square. When you make a square, put your initial in it. The player with the most squares wins!

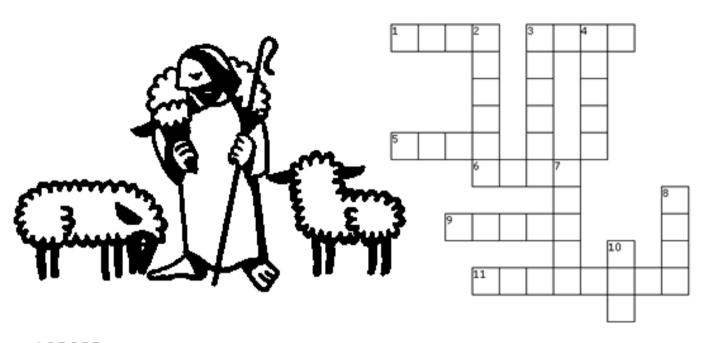
EXAMPLE





The Good Shepherd

John 10:11-18



ACROSS

- Wild animal that looks like a dog and hunts in packs
- The period from birth to death
- 5. A strong feeling of affection
- Goes faster than walking
- 9. What we use to speak
- One who takes care of the sheep

DOWN

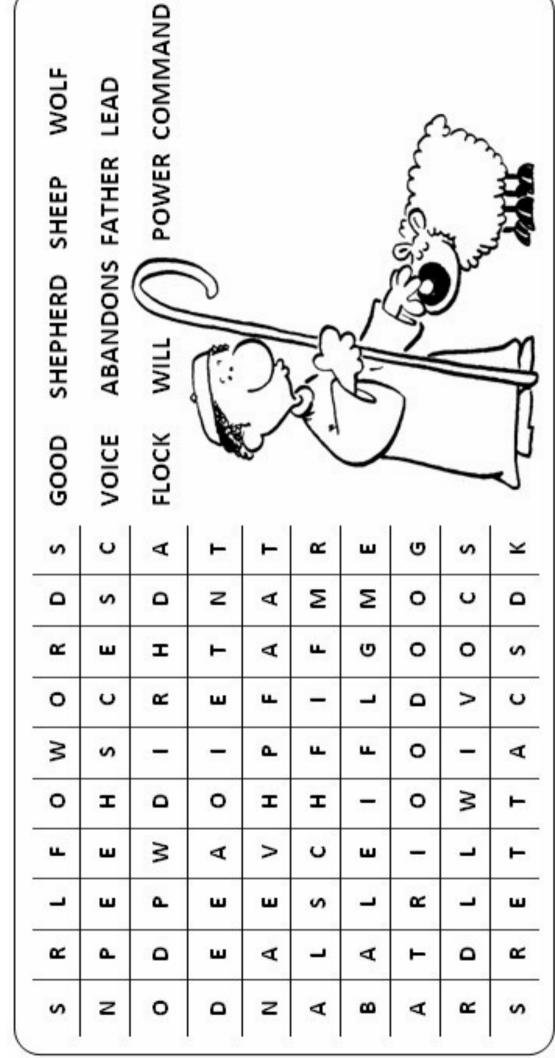
- 2. The male parent
- To hear or pay attention to something
- A group of sheep herded together
- Wooly animals which are similar to goats
- 8. The opposite of bad
- A small place where animals are kept

Words Used

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good	sheep	runs	listen			
shepherd	wolf	father	pen			
good shepherd life	flock	voice	love			







"I AM" THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Protect the sheep before the enemy reaches them.

