

JESUS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Adapted from *Jesus in the Spotlight* by Kay Arthur with Cyndy Shearer

KEY PASSAGE: John 10:22-42

FOCUS: The Good Shepherd

MEMORY VERSE: I John 1:8-9 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness

Prayer

Whenever we study God's Word, we need to start with prayer. It is only through the Holy Spirit that we'll understand and believe this. Let's pray together. **Pray with students. Pray for their prayer requests too.**

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

Sheep Games

You will need the following:

- *Low Prep*

HIDE AND SHEEP: The children will all find a good hiding place and one child will be the "Shepherd" and will try to find the sheep. When a sheep is found, that sheep will join with the "Shepherd" in finding more sheep.

OR

SHEEP TAG: The children will play a game of tag. One child will be designated as "The Shepherd" and will try to tag the other children who represent the sheep. When one of the "sheep" is tagged, that child will lie down right where they were tagged. Continue to play until all of the sheep are lying down. Children can make the Baa-baa sheep sound while laying down. Allow different children to be the "shepherd" if time allows.

LESSON

(Note to teacher: Read/teach the lesson to the students; be sure to allow them enough time to look up verses and engage with the Scripture independently. Each student should have the printed Scripture and colored pencils. Write the key words/symbols on the whiteboard before class..)

I. Introduction

Last week, we learned that Jesus is the Good Shepherd who takes care of His sheep. Do you remember who Jesus' sheep are? **Allow students to answer** Jesus' sheep are those who listen to His voice and follow Him--believers. Not everyone will be one of Jesus' sheep. When we listen to the Bible today, I want you to listen for the keyword SHEEP. When you hear it, Baaa loudly one time.

II. Bible Passage

22 Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, **23** and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon's Colonnade. **24** The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

25 Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me, **26** but you do not believe because you are not my SHEEP. **27** My SHEEP listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. **28** I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. **29** My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. **30** I and the Father are one."

Jesus promises many good things for His sheep, those who believe in Him.

1. Jesus' sheep will listen.
2. Jesus knows His sheep.
3. Jesus' sheep will follow Him.
4. Jesus will give His sheep eternal life.
5. Jesus will keep His sheep forever.

Do you remember last week when we talked about the wolves to try to steal Jesus' sheep? There are many wolves that would like to steal us away from God or lure us away from following Him, like Satan. But Jesus promised that we are held in His hand and no one will snatch us away. He will keep us forever.

Let's do a small experiment. I need two volunteers. **If possible, choose a smaller child and a larger child.**

Candy Snatching

You will need the following:

- *Hard wrapped candy*
1. Ask smaller child to lay hand out flat. Place candy on palm. Ask him to keep the candy in his hand.
 2. Whisper to older child, On the count of three, snatch the candy out of his hand.
 3. **SAY:** to the older child, **On the count of three, I want you to do what I just told you.**
 4. The older child will likely succeed in taking candy from younger child.
 5. **Say: That was pretty easy. Let's try again but now I want *adult's name* to hold the candy.**
 6. Adult volunteer will place candy on palm, perhaps high above children's head. Tell older child to snatch candy away from him.
 7. After experiment or after lesson, give each child a piece of candy.

That was much harder this time, wasn't it? Why? **Allow students to answer, bigger, taller, older, more experience, etc.** It was harder (or impossible) for you as a child to snatch something from an adult's hand. But Jesus said that we are in His hands, and since Jesus is God, we are actually in God the Father's hand. Let's read about God's hands.

Psalms 89:13 You have a mighty arm; strong is your HAND, high your right HAND.

Isaiah 40:12a Who has *measured the waters* in the hollow of his HAND and marked off the heavens with a span,

Look at your hands. How much water can you hold in your hand? *If desired, pour a little water into one child's hand* Not much. But the Bible says that God's hand is sooooo big, that He can hold all of the water in the world in one hand! How many hands would it take you to measure this rug? *If desired, allow children to attempt to measure rug with hands* God's hand is soooo big, that He can use His hand to measure outer space!

Do you think anyone can snatch anything away from God's hand? No! If you are God's sheep, He will hold on to you forever. No one, not Satan, not God's enemies, not even you can take yourself out of His hand.

VI. MEMORY VERSE

Our memory verse reminds us that we were all lost sheep. But Jesus is our Rescuer!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JDhvRkyDkRI>

VII. Bible Reading Challenge

Over and over today, Jesus said that His sheep will know His voice and follow Him. Back in Chapter 8, Jesus said that we will know if we are His disciples if we "hold fast" or "abide" in His Word. As a church, we want to encourage you to know Jesus' Words and Voice by reading the Bible.

Starting in March, we will have a 25 day Bible reading challenge. It will be full of fun and prizes and we'll have a final celebration between services in the gym. I hope you will all be a part of this fun challenge and know Jesus' voice by reading the Bible.

VIII. Craft

Fingerprint Sheep



EASY SHEEP CRAFT
FOR TODDLERS

