

Children's Worship Lesson – April 25, 2021

FOLLOWING JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Focus Scripture: Psalm 23, John 10: 11-18

Purpose: To gather as a community and go forward with the shepherd

Preparation

Worship Table – **Yellow cloth**

Pictures and materials for story and activity are at the end of the lesson

Lighting of the Christ Candle

We light the Christ candle to remind us that God is always here.

Easter Greeting

Parent: *Christ is risen!*

All: *Christ is risen, indeed!*

Opening Prayer

***Thank you God, for Jesus, who cares for us,
and is always with us as our special friend.
Amen.***

Opening Action Rhyme “Jesus is With Us”

This is the house where I live; **(hands form peak of roof)**
my family lives here, too.
Jesus is with us all the time and helps in what we do.

We never really see him **(hand to forehead searching)**
but we know he's always there.
We feel that he is loving us **(hug self)**
and know his gentle care.

Introducing the Theme – Magic Mud

In advance: Make a batch of “magic mud” (**recipe on the bottom of the lesson plan**), enough to fill the bottom of a small pail or ice cream bucket.

I've got some special mud here. What is special about it? You'll see. Punch your fist into it. (Give each child a turn. Their fists should be resisted by the mud) So, you can't sink your fist into this mud. It might seem that's the special thing about it, but I'd like you to try one more thing. This time gently touch the mud. (Give each child a turn. Their fingers should sink in.) Did that surprise you? Yes, that's what's really special about this mud - it doesn't respond to force, but gentleness works. That's one of the lessons that Jesus taught us. He showed us a different way to be a strong person.

Exploring the Theme – Following the Shepherd through Pictures



In advance: Bring the “Following the Shepherd” teaching pictures (#77 and #4). Cut the pictures apart and tape them on the wall in a different area of the room, at the children’s eye level when sitting. You may wish to colour the pictures on the resource sheet.

Lead the children around the room, stopping at each teaching picture and discussing how people are helpers of Jesus. Sample questions are below.

- **Hungry People:** *This picture shows some of Jesus’ helpers helping people who don’t have enough to eat? What are they doing? How else can we help people who don’t have enough food?*
- **Helping People Learn about God:** *These people are learning about God’s love. Can you tell where they are? How can we be Jesus’ helpers and show God’s love to others?*
- **Helping Sick People:** *In this picture, the child is sick. Who is helping him? Who else helps people who are sick? How can we be Jesus’ helpers when we know someone is not well?*
- **Understanding People with Different Experiences:** *This picture shows people wearing traditional head coverings from a variety of the world’s cultures. How can we learn more about people who live differently than we do? How can Jesus’ helpers help someone who has just moved to this country?*

Gather together in the fold again.

There’s a famous psalm, written a very long time ago – even a long time before Jesus lived - that talks about God as our shepherd. Here’s a part of it.

Read Psalm 23:1-4

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside the still waters, He restores my soul.

He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name sake.

Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me;

Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Sing: “A Psalm Setting”

A Psalm Setting
based on Psalm 23:1-4
Donald Schmidt

F

God's my shep - herd who takes (clap) care of me

C7 F B \flat /F F

3
and guides me Ev' ry day God loves me!

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

Integrating the Theme – “Finger Puppets”

In advance: Make copies of the “Finger Puppets” section of the activity sheet. Cut a Jesus figure and 4 sheep figures for each child. Bring crayons and tape. Make two sample puppets.

We have talked today about Jesus being a shepherd. (Hold up your samples.) You can make some finger puppets so that when you are at home, you can act out the ways that Jesus looks after his sheep, like us.

Colour the picture of Jesus and the lambs. Then I will help you to tape them together around your fingers.

Tape the puppets together over their fingers - Jesus on one hand and the sheep on the other.

Now you can pretend to be Jesus. What would Jesus say to his sheep?

Closing Prayer - Song

I Will Go into the World with Jesus

(tune: One Little, Two Little)

**I will go into the world with Jesus.
I will go into the world with Jesus.
I will go into the world with Jesus,
and help spread God's love.**

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Magic Mud

250 ml/ 1 cup cornstarch

125ml/ ½ cup water

food colouring

Place the cornstarch into a container that has a lid.

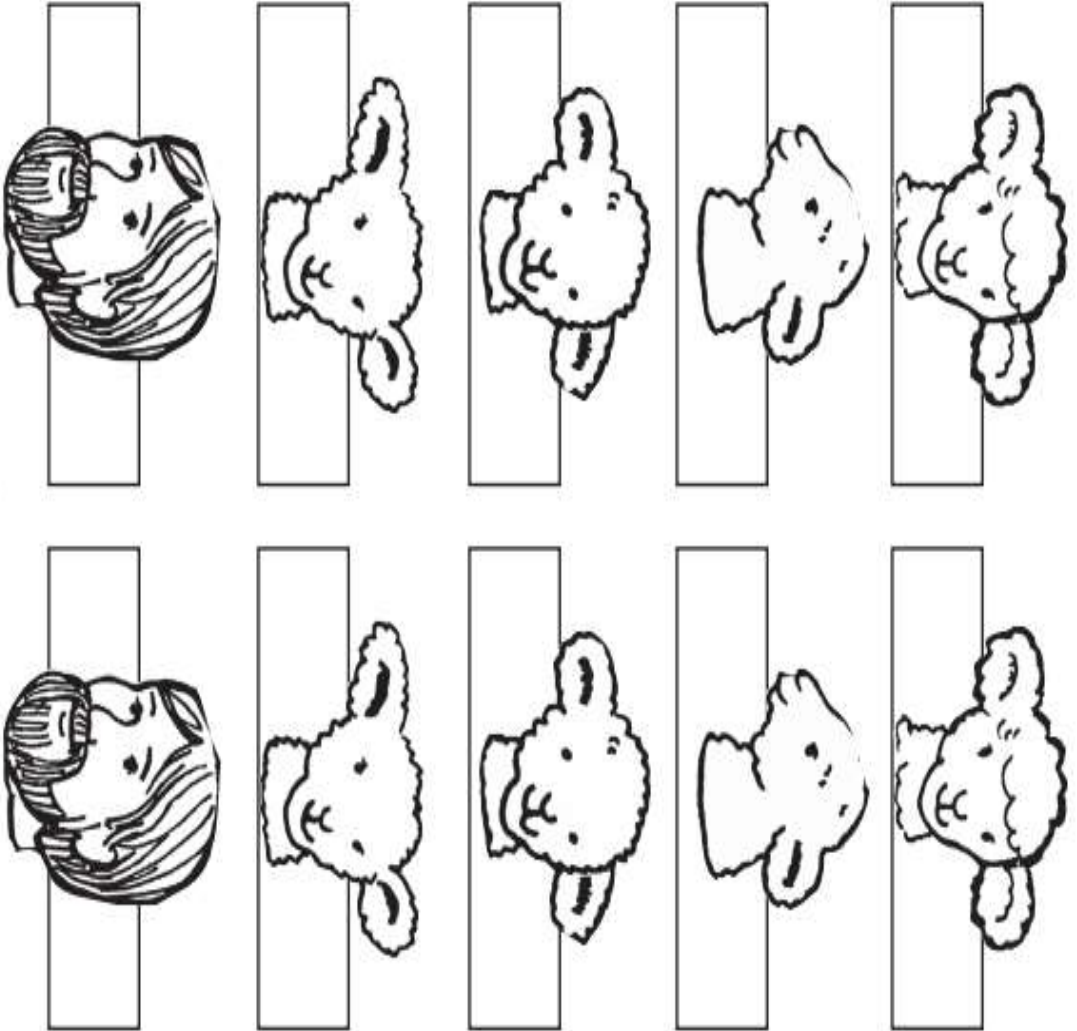
Add a few drops of food colouring to the water, then mix the water into the cornstarch, a little at a time.

Note: This will be a bit hard to stir but be patient! It is easy to add too much water, as your spoon will be resisted by the “mud” when it is the right consistency. The “mud” should look liquid when not touched but should become hard when you squeeze it in your hand. It should allow your fingers to slide into it when touched gently but resist your fingers if you poke it more vigorously. To get the right consistency, add more water or cornstarch if necessary.

Keep covered.

Tip: For face and body painting, try water soluble wax pastels (such as Caran D’Ache, Swiss Neocolor, available at craft stores). While these are pricey, they last for years and give vibrant colour.

Finger Puppets





"Helping Hungry People"
Following the Shepherd #1



"Helping People Learn about God"
Following the Shepherd #2

Understanding People with Different Experiences
Following the Shepherd #4
for use by those whose teaching picture #78 has an incorrect graphic

