

2020 WOW

Kids' Lesson Plan – October 14

AT HOME

John 10:11-15 The Parable of the Good Shepherd



Make several of the round sheep cutouts, or just cut some squares or circles of plain white paper. Leave some blank, but put a random shape or mark on some. Give each family member one sheep with a marking on it.

Say: “If I were a shepherd, I’d have a really big problem if I couldn’t tell the sheep apart. They all look pretty much the same. But if you look closely, you’ll find differences. (give the kids a few seconds to examine their sheep)

Pick up their sheep, and shuffle them in with the ones you have left. One adult should take all of the sheep, and scatter them around the room.

Say, “Our goal is to find our own sheep again. Walk around and find your sheep.”

When the kids have found their sheep, have them sit back down and discuss:

- You found your sheep among a bunch that looked pretty much the same. What helped you do that?
- Jesus knows each of us, even though there are SO many people in the world. How do you think He does that? (He’s God! He knows everything! He made us, so he knows every little thing about us and how he made us unique—inside and out.)
- How does it feel knowing that Jesus can pick you out of a crowd and knows your name?

Today, we’ll explore a story Jesus told about being a shepherd—a GOOD shepherd.

(Note – if the kids can’t find their own sheep, use this as an opportunity to point out that Jesus is a far better shepherd than we are. His love causes him to know each one of us perfectly.)

Game

Pick two family members – one will be the robber, and one will be the shepherd. Both will call to the rest of the family. The rest of the family should listen to the shepherd’s voice, and go find the shepherd. Switch roles and play again.

Open in Prayer, praying for each child by name.

Bible Message – Following Jesus’ Voice

After playing this game, use this section to guide you in your lesson on following Jesus.

Discuss

Was it easy to identify which voice to follow? How did you know?

Do you know a Bible passage that talks about whose voice we should follow?

John 10:2-5 ESV

1/3

10 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ² But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.

Discuss

Whose voice will the sheep follow?

Do the sheep know who their shepherd is?

Does the shepherd know which are his sheep?

Say

This passage tells us that the shepherd knows his sheep by name. And the sheep recognizes and follows the voice of its shepherd. But what do sheep do when they hear a voice they don't recognize? They run away!

John 10:6

⁶ This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

Discuss

Do you suppose Jesus was trying to tell the people about actual sheep?

Or was He using the story to try to teach the people about themselves?

In this story, who is the Shepherd? Who are the sheep?

Let's read more about the shepherd and the sheep.

John 10:11-13 (NIRV)

⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep

Discuss

Who do you think the thief is? (the devil)

What does the thief do? (comes to steal/destroy)

What did Jesus come to do? (forgive our sins, give us eternal life)

Who does this passage compare the good shepherd with? (hired hand)

The hired hand is somebody who is just paid to take care of the sheep, but he doesn't really care if they live or die. What would he do if a thief or a maybe even a wild animal like a wolf came? (He'd run away.)

What will a good shepherd do for his sheep? Why? (would go so far as to die for the sheep, because he loves them)

John 10:14-15 ESV

¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

Discuss

In this passage, who does the good shepherd refer to?

Who are the sheep?

Say

In this passage, the good shepherd refers to Jesus and the sheep are his followers.

The Bible tells us that Jesus is the good shepherd who died on the cross for our sins.

If you believe in Jesus, you are a follower of Jesus. Jesus is your shepherd and you are one of Jesus' sheep. (Feel free to expand on this!)

Close in Prayer!

