

## The Found Sheep



© Gerard O'Shea and Anne-Marie Irwin, for use with the Mystagogical Method and the SALT Approach. Enquiries: [anne-marie.irwin@nd.edu.au](mailto:anne-marie.irwin@nd.edu.au). May be reproduced for educational purposes.

*Start with the sheep and the shepherd in a box beside the sheepfold.*

*Take out the shepherd and place him outside the sheepfold.*

We are remembering the good shepherd and his sheep  
Do you remember what he had in his bag? Oil;  
slingshot; lunch, water...

The good shepherd loves his sheep and calls each one  
by name...

They follow him because they know his voice ...

*Take each sheep through the gate into the sheepfold.*

At night, the good shepherd stays near the sheep to  
protect them. He will lay down his life to protect them.

In the morning, the good shepherd and all his sheep  
will be led out to green pastures... As soon as he calls,  
they will come because they know his voice...

*Take each sheep through the gate and place them near the shepherd.*

They won't follow a stranger, because they don't know a stranger's voice. Here they are in green pastures with a lovely stream and still waters...

The good shepherd stays with his sheep all day long. When they are moving around eating the grass, one of the sheep sees something a long way off and goes there.

*Move one of the sheep away*



When the day starts to get dark, the good shepherd takes them home. As each sheep comes past, he checks each one to see if it is hurt. He knows how many sheep he has, and he knows each one by name. They love to come running when they hear his voice.

*Shepherd examines sheep as they come through the gate.*

Then he notices that one is missing – it's not there. He closes the gate to the sheepfold and ...

*Shepherd closes the gate.*

Let's read the story to find out what happens...

*Light candle*

4 "What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it?"

*Shepherd goes to lost sheep.*

5 And when he does find it, he sets it on his shoulders with great joy

6 and, upon his arrival home, he calls together his friends and neighbours and says to them, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.'

*Shepherd takes lost sheep back to sheepfold.*



## ***I wonder...***

Why the sheep wandered away?

What might happen to the lost sheep?

What it feels like to be a lost sheep?

How might the lost sheep be feeling once he is truly lost?

Why the shepherd worries about that one lost sheep?

## **Some Choice Activity Possibilities:**

After the teacher has presented the parable you may like to choose one of the following ideas, or come up with another response:

- Use the figures and the booklet to tell the parable
- Trace a picture of the Good Shepherd and the Found Sheep
- Draw or paint the story, using paper, blackboard or whiteboard.
- Make a model of the Good Shepherd and the found sheep, using play dough, modelling clay or pipe-cleaners and wool.
- Explain your picture to another person, perhaps recording on film.

