

## The Good Shepherd



*Start with an empty sheepfold. Sheep and shepherd should be at the side in a box.*

We have gathered around a sheepfold; a place where shepherds keep their sheep. The sheepfold has a gate; an entryway for the shepherd and sheep.

*Point out the sheepfold and the gate.*



*Bring out the shepherd.*

This shepherd isn't wearing the kind of clothes we would wear today; they are the clothes they wore in Jesus' time.

*Point out the clothes being worn by the shepherd.*

Shepherds then were young boys. This shepherd has a bag over his shoulder. I wonder what he has in his bag?

*Wait for suggestions, and then prompt if necessary ...  
lunch; slingshot for dangerous animals; oil to bind  
wounds; flute?*

*Put sheep in sheepfold, one by one, through the gate.*

Some of the sheep have their heads up – listening to his voice. Some have their heads down – maybe eating grass.

*Put good shepherd just outside the sheepfold.*

We're going to hear now about how the good shepherd calls his sheep and they know his voice. How they listen to him but not a stranger.

*Light candle.*

*Read story from John 10:3-5; 14.*

The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock. The gatekeeper lets him in.

*Take the shepherd through the gateway and into the sheepfold.*

The sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out.

*Move the shepherd through the gate and stand him outside.*

*One by one, move the sheep through the gate and stand them in front of the shepherd.*

When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them and the sheep follow because they know his voice.

*Move the shepherd further out. Have each sheep follow one by one.*

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.”

*Extinguish candle.*

***Talk to the children about the story...***

The shepherd goes to the sheep every day and he takes them out.

Sheep are frightened animals; they won't drink from bubbling waters, so he finds a quiet still pool for them.

The shepherd calls his sheep by name, and they follow him because he has good things for them.

When they hear his voice, they follow him because they trust him.

He takes them to fresh green grass and quiet still waters. They stay to him.

The shepherd loves his sheep. He cares for them and he protects them. If they hurt themselves, he would rub oil in their wounds.

At night, he takes them back to the sheepfold. The Shepherd calls each sheep, by name, into the fold again.

*Move the shepherd back through the gate to the entrance to the sheepfold and begin calling the sheep by name. As they hear their name, move each sheep back through the gate into the sheepfold.*

As they come into the sheepfold, he checks each sheep and makes sure they are there. Then he comes into the sheepfold to be with the sheep and be safe.

*Move the shepherd back into the sheepfold, close the gate, and lie him down in front of the gate.*

***I wonder...***

I wonder what it must feel to belong to such a shepherd; to hear him call your name...

I wonder, who are these sheep who belong to this shepherd....

I wonder why they want to be close to him...

I wonder why he would protect them from danger

When you finish this work, return to its place, leaving it in good order for others to use.



## 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
- Draw or paint the story, using paper, blackboard or whiteboard.
- Make a model of the Good Shepherd, using play dough or modelling clay
- Explain your picture to another person, perhaps recording on film.