

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

VBS Lesson Outline | Psalm 23 / John 10:1-18

THE BIG IDEA

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who knows us, leads us, and protects us. Just like a shepherd cares for every sheep, Jesus cares for each of us personally. We can follow Him and trust Him.

MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." (Psalm 23:1, NIV)

OPENING (5 minutes)

Ask: What do you know about sheep? They are fluffy, they say 'baa,' and they need a shepherd to keep them safe. Today we will learn that Jesus calls Himself our Shepherd.

STORY TIME (10 minutes)

Tell the story from Psalm 23 / John 10:1-18. Key points: (1) In the Bible, God's people are often compared to sheep. (2) Sheep need a shepherd to lead them to food and water. (3) Sheep need protection from wolves and thieves. (4) Jesus said, 'I am the Good Shepherd.' (5) The Good Shepherd knows each sheep by name. (6) The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. (7) We can trust Jesus to lead us and protect us.

DISCUSSION (5 minutes)

Questions to ask: Why does Jesus compare us to sheep? What does a shepherd do for his sheep? How does Jesus lead us and protect us? What does it mean that Jesus 'lays down His life' for us?

ACTIVITY TIME (15 minutes)

Option A: Cotton Ball Sheep Card (see craft sheet). Option B: Coloring page. Option C: Memory verse practice with hand motions.

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for this story and what it teaches us. Help us to remember Jesus knows and leads us. In Jesus' name, Amen.