

Family Sunday School

Lesson 1 - Jesus is Not a Hired Hand

Introduction:

There are over 600 references to sheep and shepherds in the Bible.

In our final series for this Wilderness Faith school year, we will focus on Jesus as the Good Shepherd. This week, we will see that Jesus cares for us like a shepherd does for his sheep, even going so far as to risk his life to keep us safe.



Start the Fun!

Serving Others

Work together to make a list. How many service jobs can you name (jobs where people are paid to do something for someone else)? Can you think of 10, 20, more than that?



Read together

John 10:11-13 NIV *The Good Shepherd*

John 10:11-13

(Jesus said) 11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. 13 The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

Now watch this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJpwF7Nc3dk> (rude waitress)

Discuss

Ask: In the video, did the waitress seem to care for the people she was serving? Why do you think she was so rude?

Discussion points: No, she didn't. It is impossible to say if she was having a bad day, if she thought she was being funny, or if the people were the victims of some kind of prank.

Ask: Have you ever experienced poor service? Why don't you always get excellent results when you pay someone to do a job for you?

Discussion points: Sometimes money isn't enough incentive for people to give you their very best. They might hate their job or not feel they are being paid enough.

Ask: When someone does something for you because they love you, how is their service different? Think about children making their mom breakfast in bed on Mother's Day.

Discussion points: Even if the person is not an expert at the task, they will do their best because they care. They will not give up when the task gets difficult. You will appreciate their effort because you know they are doing it out of love.

Ask: Now to the Bible lesson. Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd in this lesson. Who are the sheep?

Discussion points: In this metaphor, we are the sheep. Jesus cares for us like a shepherd cares for his sheep.

Ask: How is Jesus different from a hired hand or service worker?

Discussion points: Jesus cares about us. He takes care of us because he loves us. He would lay down his life to protect us. The verses say the hired hand would run away when danger comes but Jesus would stay with us and protect us. He is the Good Shepherd and loves us, his sheep.

Pray

Thank Jesus for being our shepherd, making sure we have everything we need and keeping us safe. Thank him for going as far as dying for us to save us from our sin. Thank him for doing all of this out of love.

Participate

Bubble Wrap Sheep

Instruction video: <https://youtu.be/Oq4jkdWK7tl>

Materials needed:

- Brown paper (grocery bags or craft paper)
- White paint
- Bubble wrap
- Paint brush
- Scissors
- Black paper
- Stapler
- Yarn/ string for hanging
- Something to stuff with (e.g. plastic bags or more bubble wrap or packing peanuts)

Begin by printing a texture with your bubble wrap. Place a dollop of white paint on a sheet of bubble wrap. Spread it around with the paint brush. Lay a piece of brown paper on top and gently rub it. Peel off and leave to dry. You should be able to get two pieces of textured paper from the bubble wrap without adding more paint.

Once you have finished your printing and it is all dry, lay two pieces of paper together – with the printing facing OUTWARDS on both. Draw a cloud shape (or if easier an oval) and cut out.



Then cut out a black semi circle for the head and two thin rectangles for the legs. Position these between your two pieces of paper. Then start stapling... staple your head and legs in place – as well as your yarn for hanging (it helps if you tie a small knot in your yarn, to stop it slipping out from the staple).



Leave a small opening at the back and stuff... once you have fully stuffed the sheep, use your stapler to close your sheep all up. You can attach several sheep at different lengths to a hanger or a stick to make a simple mobile.

Wrap Up

Remember, you are loved and cared for even more than a shepherd loves his precious sheep. God will never give up on you.

Take a Moment to Breathe

Hearing My Breath

(from the book “Mindful Games for Kids” by Kristina Marcelli-Sargent)

Pay attention to your breathing using your sense of hearing. You can do this alone or with others. Try it for 3 to 5 minutes. You will need a pillow or a soft place to sit.

- Sit in a comfortable spot. Close your eyes and start to take deep breaths.
- Now take deep breaths in through your nose, then breathe slowly out through your mouth.
- Use your sense of hearing to listen to your breathing.
- Listen to the sounds of the air as it goes up, up through your nose and down, down into your body.
- Now breathe slowly out through your mouth. Notice what the air sounds like as it goes out of your mouth and leaves your body.
- Keep listening carefully with your eyes closed. How many different things can you notice about the sound?