

CHILDRENS PROGRAMME

WHO DO YOU SAY I AM? I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD JOHN 10:1-15

Opening Prayer

Dear God,

We are thankful you are the God we can know.

You are with us here and everywhere we go.

We pray in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Starter:

Instructions:

Play a game where you are directing someone to something in your house.

- How did they do? Did they find it, or did they get lost?
- Do you know what happens sometimes when you travel to a new place? You might get lost!
- Can you remember a time when you got lost? What happened? How did you feel? How did you know when you weren't lost anymore? What did it feel like when you were found?

Our Bible story for this session shows us that when we are lost, Jesus is always searching for us, to find us and to keep us safe.

Our Bible story for this session is in the Gospel of **John 10:1-15**.

Bible Story

A lot of the people Jesus met worked outside. Some were fishermen, some were carpenters, a lot of them tended sheep. Do you know why sheep need tending? They get lost a lot! A big problem for shepherders is getting sheep into the sheep pen and then keeping them there. You know what helps? A really good gate. If there is not a good gate, sheep are going to wander out and get lost. You know what else can happen if there is not a good gate? A wolf can get into the pen and kill the

sheep. Jesus is still trying to help people understand that he is the God we can know. He tells people, "You know the gate that keeps the sheep from getting lost and the gate that keeps dangerous animals out? I am like that gate. When you believe in me, you know that I will keep you from getting lost. I will keep you safe. I am the gate."

Jesus also said, "I am the Good Shepherd." The shepherd protects the sheep, and the sheep even recognize his voice! Today, think about Jesus as the Good Shepherd and what that means for you.

Craft:

1. Make a sheep to remind you that when you are lost and are not sure what to do, Jesus is already searching to find and help you.
2. Imagine you are looking out at a green pasture use any form of craft materials to make a scene of the sheep in the sheepfold being looked after by the Good Shepherd.

Extra Game: (You will need a hula hoop.)

Stand in a circle holding hands. The hula hoop is looped on someone's arm.

We're going to pretend we are the gate and the hula hoop is a sheep. Move the hula hoop/sheep all around the circle, but you must hold hands the whole time. The hula hoop/sheep will always be safe in our gate.

(The goal is to move the hula hoop around the entire circle never breaking the chain of hands. Those in the group will have to bend over, squat down and stand on one leg to get the hoop over the head to pass the hoop to the next child.)

Closing Prayer

Dear God,

Jesus tells us he is the Good Shepherd and the gate.

He always protects us, for goodness sake.

We are thankful you are the God we can know.

You are with us here and everywhere we go.

We pray in Jesus' name.

Amen.

