

Unit 23 • Session 5

SESSION TITLE: The Good Shepherd

Bible Passage: John 10

Story Point: Jesus is the Good Shepherd who cares for His people.

Key Passage: John 14:25-26

Big Picture Question: What did Jesus teach when He was on earth? Jesus taught about God and His kingdom. He taught that all Scripture is about Him.

Sheep wranglers

Use tape to mark a square on the floor, approximately five feet on each side. Select a family member to be the Shepherd. The rest of the family will be sheep and scatter around the room. The shepherd must lead the family back to the square on the floor by holding hands with them and guiding them to that area. When the shepherd leaves to rescue another sheep, those in the pen may wander off again. The shepherd can only rescue one sheep at a time.

Say • That game probably felt impossible for the shepherd. A sheep pen without a fence and gate would be pretty useless wouldn't it? Today we will learn about a time Jesus said that He is the gate to the sheep pen. He also said He is the Good Shepherd. We will learn what that means soon.

Sheep skin

Provide each kid with a paper plate. Invite the kids to draw a sheep's face on the plate. Provide cotton balls and glue for the kids to attach "wool" to their sheep face. Help the kids cut eye holes in the plate. Use tape to attach string to the masks so the kids can wear them. You may encourage the kids to wear their masks during the Bible story.

Say • Jesus taught that His people are like sheep, and He is like a shepherd. Today, we will learn more about what that means. What do you think makes a shepherd good?

Flag designers

Provide each kid with an index card. Challenge the kids to design a flag they might want to use if they were to create a new country. You may show pictures of different flags from countries around the world.

Say • Flags are a great way to show symbols that help people know what is important to your country. The Canadian flag has a maple leaf on it because maple trees are an important part of Canada's culture and economy. But there many people from many different cultures and nations living in Canada. That's why missionaries live in cities like Toronto to share the gospel with people from all over the world. The culture of Toronto is a blend of Canadian culture and the cultures from other countries. When we are willing to get to know people who are different from us, God can use us to share the gospel.

Try international snacks

Before the session, visit the international foods section of your grocery store and choose a few foods for kids to try. Here are some suggestions available in most grocery stores: naan bread (from South Asia), nori (edible seaweed), Mexican snack chips (available in different flavors), and imported candy. Include maple syrup or a maple-flavored cookie, which is popular in Canada. The maple leaf is on the Canadian flag.

Post the allergy alert. Arrange snacks on a table and invite kids to try them. Remind kids of the Balasinghams, who are missionaries in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Say • In a city like Toronto, there are many different kinds of foods to try. Because people from all over the world live there, the city is a blend of Canadian culture and the cultures from other countries. When we are willing to get to know people who are different from us, God can use us to share the good news about Jesus.

Make models

Provide Bibles and choose volunteers to read Psalm 23 aloud, one verse at a time. Remind kids that Psalm 23 is in the Old Testament. King David wrote this psalm, telling of God's care for His people as a shepherd.

Say • **Jesus is the Good Shepherd who cares for His people.** God sent Him to rescue sinners. Jesus laid down His life for His sheep so they could have forgiveness and eternal life.

When we trust in Jesus, we are His sheep who listen to, follow, and obey Him.

Provide a lump of clay for each kid. Invite them to each sculpt a sheep or a shepherd. As kids work, challenge them to identify the differences between a sheep and a shepherd.

Inform kids how to harden their clay according to the package instructions (time required for air drying or oven instructions with an adult's help). Encourage kids to display their sculpture at home as a reminder that Jesus is the Good Shepherd.