



# The Good Shepherd

Lesson Aim: To know we belong to Jesus.

## THE WORSHIP

**Who God Is:** The King Who Teaches

## THE WORD

**Bible Story:** John 10:14-16

**What He Has Done:** Jesus taught that He is the Good Shepherd.

## THE WAY

**Bible Memory Verse:** "Sing praises to God, sing praises." Psalm 47:6

Unit 5: The King Who Teaches—Parables 1			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
23	The Lost Sheep, Luke 15:4-7	Jesus taught that God finds those who are lost.	To know Jesus watches over us.
24	The Growing Seed, Mark 4:26-29	Jesus taught that God made the plants grow.	To know God makes us grow.
25	The Wise Builder, Matthew 7:24-27	Jesus taught that the wise man builds his house on a rock.	To know God wants us to make wise choices.
26	The Good Shepherd, John 10:14-16	Jesus taught that He is the Good Shepherd.	To know we belong to Jesus.
27	The Lost Coin, Luke 15:8-10	Jesus taught that the woman rejoiced when she found her lost coin.	To know heaven rejoices over each of us.

## TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 40:9-11. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for teaching us with Your parables. Help us teach Your children so they might better understand You and Your Kingdom. Amen."

## TEACHER'S TIP

**Pray.** We can get so focused on the lesson and caring for the physical needs of the children that we forget to pray during class. Take time each week to pray. Ask the children if they have specific needs the class can pray for. It may take extra time to hear children's stories of how they hurt their finger or the pet that is lost but it can be a special time for you and the children while showing them you place a priority on talking with God.



**THE WORSHIP  
THE WORD &  
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	<b>Welcome</b>	Treasure chest, sticker of a shepherd or shepherd's staff
		<b>Coloring Center:</b> The Good Shepherd	Coloring pages of the story of the Good Shepherd, crayons or markers
		<b>Play-Dough Center:</b> He Knows You!	Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		<b>Game Center:</b> We Belong to Jesus	Soft, toy sheep
	<b>Activity Center:</b> Bringing in the Sheep	Bag of cotton balls, sheep pen (box lid)	
	Up to 5	<b>Prepare for Worship</b>	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.  <b>Additional Song Suggestions:</b> "The Wise Man and the Foolish Man"	Praise music, optional: musical instruments <b>Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "Sing Praises" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "Be Still and Know" "He Is Mighty to Save" "How Wide?" "I Am with You" "I Will Listen" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God"
		<b>Offering</b>	Baskets
	<b>Worship Illustration</b>	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 5, Lesson 26	
THE WORD	Up to 10	<b>Watch the Word:</b> John 10:14-16	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at John 10:14 Visual: Picture of a shepherd and his sheep; soft, toy sheep
THE WAY	Up to 25	<b>Craft:</b> Shepherd's Staff	Sturdy brown paper, craft decorations*, glue, crayons or markers
		<b>Game:</b> Follow the Shepherd	Shepherd's staff, sheet
		<b>Game:</b> Jesus Knows You	Soft ball or beach ball
	<b>Snack:</b> Fluffy Sheep	Marshmallows	
	Final 5	<b>Final Five</b>	Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's: Unit 5, Lesson 26
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	<b>Say &amp; Do:</b> John 10:14-16	None
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Praise Dance	Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song "Sing Praises"
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Circle Praise	None
	Up to 10	<b>Story Time</b>	Any story about sheep

**RESOURCES:** Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Jesus as the King who teaches

## THE WELCOME

### WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello \_\_\_\_\_. I'm glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a sticker\* of a shepherd or shepherd's staff. **Let this sticker remind you that you belong to Jesus.**

\*Families will be encouraged to keep each child's crafts and stickers for the next ten weeks (Lessons 23-32) in a "Kingdom Stories Treasure Box." See the Craft page and Ponder, Pray & Play card for details.

**Teacher's Note:** These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

### COLORING CENTER: THE GOOD SHEPHERD

#### SUPPLIES

Coloring pages of the story of the Good Shepherd, crayons or markers

#### DO

Children color their picture as they talk about today's story.

#### TALK ABOUT

**Today, we will hear a story about a shepherd. There is a shepherd in our picture. What is the shepherd taking care of? (Sheep.) That's right. Shepherds take care of sheep. What kind of animals would you like to take care of? (Children respond.)**

### PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: HE KNOWS YOU!

#### SUPPLIES

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools

#### DO

Children play with the play-dough while discussing the fact that Jesus knows all about us. Encourage children to make something their favorite shape with the play-dough.

#### TALK ABOUT

**Who loves you? (Mom, Dad, grandparent, friend, Jesus.) Jesus loves you so much that He knows everything about you. He knows your name, where you live, what you like to do, your favorite games and toys—everything! Let's see if we can learn a little bit about each other today.** Choose one or more of the following questions to get to know the children in your class.

- If the children are new to each other, encourage them to share their names.
- What is your favorite color?
- Can you show me your favorite cookie cutter or play-dough tool? Why do you like it?
- What songs do you like to sing at church?
- Do you have a favorite Bible story?

# THE WELCOME *continued...*

## GAME CENTER: WE BELONG TO JESUS

### SUPPLIES

Soft, toy sheep

### DO

Choose a child to hide the sheep. Have the other children close their eyes or turn their faces to the wall. When the sheep is hidden, say this rhyme to signal to the children that it's time to find the sheep.

**Little lamb, little lamb where did you go?  
We will find you. Ready, set, go!**

### TALK ABOUT

**When a shepherd loses a sheep he will look everywhere until he finds it. The sheep belong to the shepherd and he will always take care of them. Jesus is our Shepherd and He will always take care of us. How does Jesus take care of us?** (Provides parents, grandparents, teachers, and other adults to care for us. He provides food, water, clothing, and a place to live. He teaches us through the Bible. He helps us to listen and obey His Word.)

## ACTIVITY CENTER: BRINGING IN THE SHEEP

### SUPPLIES

Bag of cotton balls, sheep pen (box lid)

### DO

Scatter the cotton ball "sheep" in the play area. Have children collect the cotton balls and bring them back to the pen.

### TALK ABOUT

**The sheep have wandered away. Let's pretend to be shepherds and bring them back to the pen.** You can also talk about sheep. Ask the children to describe them. What do they say? What do they feel like? What do they eat? What do you like about sheep?

---

---

## PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

**It's time for Praise Time. Let's sing a "Clean Up Song" as we put things away.** Praise children as they help clean.

**Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!  
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

### BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE

(For visual demonstrations, see [www.signingsavvy.com](http://www.signingsavvy.com))

<b>"Lord,</b>	Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
<b>You know</b>	(know) Open hand with palm facing down, fingertips tap the forehead two times.
<b>that I</b>	(I) Point to self.
<b>love You."</b>	(love) Fists closed, both arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest.
<b>John 21:17</b>	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

Adding sign language or motions to the Bible Memory Verse helps children recall what they are learning.



Jesus as the King who teaches

# THE WORSHIP

**Supplies:** Praise music, optional: musical instruments

**Teacher Tip:** To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" as children move to that designated area.



**Did you know you belong to Jesus? Everyone who believes in Jesus belongs to Him. He is our Shepherd because He cares for us as a shepherd cares for his sheep. Let's thank Jesus for being our Shepherd.** Have children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear Jesus, we are glad we belong to You. Thank You for loving us so much that You care for our every need. Amen.**



**All our friends have gathered here with us to sing praise to King Jesus.** Sing Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Sing Praises." **King Jesus is the King who teaches us. His special stories help us understand the kingdom of God.**



**Let's review our Bible Memory Verse together. Psalm 47:6 says "Sing praises to God, sing praises."** Practice several times.

**"Sing praises to God,**

One open flat hand moves back and forth along the other forearm.  
The index finger comes off the mouth, followed by clapping hands together.  
(God) The open right hand, with fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.

**sing praises."**

One open flat hand moves back and forth along the forearm.  
The index finger comes off the mouth, followed by clapping hands together.

**Psalm 47:6**

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



**Today, we will hear the story Jesus told about the good shepherd. Jesus is our Good Shepherd. Let's remember that He is always caring for us as a shepherd cares for his sheep as we give our money offerings.** Sing: "Be Still and Know" while collecting the offering.



**Let's see how our new friend is doing today!** Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 5, Lesson 26.



**Jesus is our Good Shepherd. He will watch over us wherever we go. Let's sing God's promise about that from the Bible.** Sing: "I Am with You."



## The Good Shepherd

# THE WORD

**Supplies:** Teacher's Bible with bookmark at John 10:14; picture of a shepherd and his sheep; soft, toy sheep

**Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.**

<b>With my eyes on my teacher;</b>	Point to eyes.
<b>My mouth quiet as can be,</b>	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
<b>I will listen to hear,</b>	Cup hand around ear.
<b>How God loves you and me.</b>	Hug self, point to others, and then self.

**Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears.** Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

Show children the sheep. **The Bible tells us we are like sheep. What does a sheep sound like?** (Baaa.) **You sound like a sheep. Do you have four feet like a sheep?** (No.) **Do you have wool like a sheep?** (No.) **No, you are not really a sheep, are you?** (No.)

The Bible says we are like sheep because we have a shepherd who cares for us. Jesus is our Shepherd. He will always take care of us because we belong to Him. Let's listen to the story Jesus told about the good shepherd. Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to John 10:14.



## WATCH THE WORD: JOHN 10:14-16

Read the story below or retell the passage in your own words. To illustrate the story, show a picture of a shepherd and his sheep from a children's Bible, the coloring page, or other source.

- "I am the Good Shepherd,"
- Jesus said to you and me.
- He said, "I know My sheep,
- And My sheep know Me.
  
- "I lay down My life for them,
- Because I love them so.
- I have sheep in other places,
- I must bring them in also.
  
- "They will listen to My voice,
- They will follow and obey.
- And all the sheep will be together
- With the Good Shepherd one day."

**Who is the Good Shepherd?** (Jesus.) **Who are His sheep?** (We are!) **Jesus calls you His sheep. He knows all about you!**



Jesus is our Shepherd

## THE WAY

**Teacher Tip:** Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

**Kingdom Stories Treasure Box:** Encourage families to use the instructions on the Ponder, Pray & Play card to make a Kingdom Stories Treasure Box to store children's Kingdom Stories Treasures for the next ten weeks (Lessons 23-32). Children should place their Treasure Chest Sticker on the outside of the box and their parable story crafts inside. Create a Kingdom Stories Treasure Box for the classroom to review the stories each week.

### **CRAFT: SHEPHERD'S STAFF**

**Purpose:** To remind the children of the Parable of the Good Shepherd.

**Supplies:** Sturdy brown paper, craft decorations\*, glue, crayons or markers

**Prepare:** From sturdy brown paper, cut a 10-inch shepherd's staff (J-shape).

**\*Adaptation for Ages 2-3:** This craft has been adapted from the curriculum for ages 4-5. When considering craft decorations for this age, it is best to avoid anything that could be a choking hazard. Some craft decorations that work well for this age are stickers, stampers, sturdy paper, tissue paper, wrapping paper, ribbon, yarn, pom-poms, cotton balls, foam shapes, small feathers, non-toxic glitter paint, or watercolor paints.

#### **Directions:**

1. Color the shepherd's staff.
2. Decorate the staff with craft decorations.

#### **Craft Discussion:**

- **Who is your Shepherd?** (Jesus.) **The Lord Jesus is your Shepherd.**
- **Who does a shepherd take care of?** (His sheep.) **Who does Jesus take care of?** (All of us.)
- **Pretend like you are holding your own soft, little sheep. Hug the sheep close to you. What is your sheep's name?** (Children respond.) **Now, put your sheep safely to bed in its pen!**
- **Now, close your eyes. Pretend Jesus is holding you in His arms, just like you are His little sheep. What do you think Jesus' hug feels like?** (Children respond.) **Jesus says your name. What do you think Jesus' voice sounds like?** (Children respond.)

# THE WAY *continued...*

## **GAME: FOLLOW THE SHEPHERD**

**Purpose:** Children will follow the shepherd's voice to the pen to understand how God calls them to Himself.

**Supplies:** Shepherd's staff, sheet

**It's time for the sheep to go to bed! The sheep listen to the shepherd's voice and follow him. The shepherd puts the sheep safely to bed in their pen.**

### **Directions:**

1. Lay the sheet on the floor to designate an area as a sheep's pen.
2. Have children stand at the other end of the room.
3. Choose a child to be the shepherd. Give the child the shepherd's staff.
4. The remaining children are the sheep. They crawl on their hands and knees near the shepherd.
5. The shepherd walks slowly toward the pen repeating, **"I am the shepherd. Follow me."**
6. Sheep crawl on floor and say, **"Bahhh, bahhh"** as they follow the shepherd.
7. When all the sheep arrive safely in the pen, choose another child to be the shepherd and play again.

**Who is your Good Shepherd? (Jesus.) Just as sheep belong to the shepherd, you belong to Jesus. You can follow Jesus, your Shepherd. He will watch over you just as the shepherd watches over his sheep.**

## **GAME: JESUS KNOWS YOU**

**Purpose:** Children share something about themselves to learn Jesus knows all about them.

**Supplies:** Soft ball or beach ball

**Sheep belong to their shepherd and the shepherd knows all about his sheep. You belong to Jesus and He knows all about you!**

### **Directions:**

1. Seat children on the floor in a circle.
2. Teacher rolls the ball to a child.
3. Teacher says to child with ball: **"Jesus is your Shepherd and your Shepherd knows your name."**
4. Child says **"My name is \_\_\_\_\_."** or lead the child by saying, **"Your name is \_\_\_\_\_."**
5. Child rolls ball to another child.
6. Continue playing until all children have had a turn.
7. Play may be continued by having the children share something else Jesus knows about them such as their favorite color, favorite food, or favorite toy.



# THE WAY *continued...*

## **SNACK: FLUFFY SHEEP**

**Purpose:** Children will enjoy marshmallows that remind them of the sheep and the Good Shepherd.

**Snack Suggestion:** Marshmallows

**Let's eat fluffy, white marshmallows as we think about the fluffy, white sheep in our story today.**

### **Directions:**

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.  
**God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.**  
**Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.**
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
  - **A shepherd loves his sheep and he takes good care of them. How does a shepherd take care of his sheep?** (He feeds them, gives them water, keeps them safe, etc.)
  - **Who is the Good Shepherd?** (Jesus.) **You belong to Jesus and He loves you. Let's say, "I belong to Jesus."** Repeat with the children. **You belong to Jesus!**



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## **FINAL FIVE MINUTES**

### **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE**

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

<b>"Sing praises to God,</b>	One open flat hand moves back and forth along the other forearm. The index finger comes off the mouth, followed by clapping hands together. (God) The open right hand, with fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.
<b>sing praises."</b>	One open flat hand moves back and forth along the forearm. The index finger comes off the mouth, followed by clapping hands together.
<b>Psalm 47:6</b>	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

### **PRAY**

**Let's pray together.** Say a closing prayer with the children.

### **PLAY**

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

### **DISMISSAL**

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

## **GOT TIME?**

### **SAY & DO: JOHN 10:14-16**

**Purpose:** This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the Bible Story details.

**Supplies:** None

**Directions:** With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **"I am the Good Shepherd,"** (Point to heaven.)
- **Jesus said to you and me.** (Point to self and others.)
- **He said, "I know My sheep,** (Point to others.)
- **And My sheep know Me.** (Point to self.)
  
- **"I lay down My life for them,** (Lay palms open, as a gift.)
- **Because I love them so.** (Place hands on heart.)
- **I have sheep in other places.** (Place hand above eyes in a searching pose.)
- **I must bring them in also.** (Cradle imaginary sheep in arms.)
  
- **"They will listen to My voice,** (Point to ear.)
- **They will follow and obey.** (Nod head.)
- **And all the sheep will be together,** (Open arms wide.)
- **With the Good Shepherd one day."** (Point to heaven.)



### **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES**

"Sing praises to God, sing praises." Psalm 47:6

### **GAME: PRAISE DANCE**

**Purpose:** To help children memorize and review the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song "Sing Praises"

**Jesus loves to hear you sing praises to Him. Praises are words that say how great Jesus is. Let's praise Him together as we dance and sing our Bible Memory Verse Song!**

**Directions:**

1. Play and sing: "Sing Praises."
2. Encourage children to sing, dance, and create motions to help remember the words to the song.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **GAME: CIRCLE PRAISE**

**Purpose:** Children stand to praise God for something in their life. Some praise examples include: family, friends, pets, toys, teachers, favorite activities, etc.

**Supplies:** None

**We can praise God by thanking Him for the good things He gives us. Let's praise and thank God for all of those good things!**

### **Directions:**

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Choose one child to stand in the center.
3. Seated children chant: "Name of standing child sings praises to our King!"  
"Name of standing child, what is the praise you bring?"
4. Standing child says, "**I praise God for child's individual praise.**"
5. All the children clap and shout "**We praise God!**"
6. The child in the center chooses another child to stand and sits back down in the circle.
7. Play until each child has had a turn giving praise.



## **STORY TIME**

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about sheep.

### **PONDER, PRAY & PLAY**

Unit 5, Lesson 26: The Good Shepherd

**PONDER!** Jesus told the story of the Good Shepherd (John 10:14-16). Show your Shepherd's Staff to your family. How is Jesus the Good Shepherd? You belong to Jesus, just like a sheep belongs to its shepherd. What does Jesus know about you and your family?

**PRAY!** Pray this prayer each day this week: "Jesus, thank You for being our Good Shepherd. Help us to always know You love us and are with us. Amen."

**PLAY!** Open your Kingdom Stories Treasure Box (any decorated box). Put today's craft inside. Put your Treasure Box Sticker on the outside. During the week, take out your craft treasures to remind your family of Jesus' stories.

### **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE**

<b>"Sing</b>	One open flat hand moves back and forth along the other forearm.
<b>praises</b>	The index finger comes off the mouth, followed by clapping hands together.
<b>to God,</b>	(God) The open right hand, with fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.
<b>sing</b>	One open flat hand moves back and forth along the forearm.
<b>praises."</b>	The index finger comes off the mouth, followed by clapping hands together.
<b>Psalm 47:6</b>	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.