



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

Whisper Verse: "The Lord is my Shepherd."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.
 For God is the King of all the earth." Psalm 47:6-7a

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 will search for the lost and find them.
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 make wise choices based on God's Word.
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."

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**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a sheep, shepherd, shepherd's staff, or Jesus
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "The Lord is my Shepherd."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Sing Praises" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "He Is Mighty to Save" "How Wide" "I Am with You" "It's Praise Time" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "We Love" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Amazing Grace" "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Cedarmont Toddler Bible Songs The Ultimate Bible Song Collection for Kids Vol. 1
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 5, Lesson 26
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: John 10:14-16	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at John 10:14 Visual: "Shepherd's Staff" craft sample
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Shepherd's Staff	Sturdy brown paper, scissors, glue, crayons or markers, various decorative items such as buttons, dried pasta, sequins, ribbon, stickers, etc.
		Game: Follow the Shepherd	"Shepherd's Staff" craft sample, objects to designate sheep's pen on floor (chairs, blanket or sheet, twine or yarn)
		Game: Jesus Knows You	Soft ball or soft, toy lamb
		Snack: Fluffy Sheep	Marshmallows
	Circle of Prayer	None	
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 5, Lesson 26 Color This Story: "The Good Shepherd"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: John 10:14-16	None
	Up to 10	Game: Praise Dance	Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song "Sing Praises," CD player
	Up to 10	Game: Circle Praise	None
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about sheep

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



The Lord is my Shepherd

THE 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 stamp or sticker of a sheep, shepherd, shepherd's staff, or Jesus. **Let this remind you Jesus is your Shepherd. Today's Whisper Verse is "The Lord is my Shepherd."** Teach Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "The Lord is my Shepherd."

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com.)

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with three hand motions:

- "(The) Lord"** Extend thumb and index finger of right hand to create an "L" shape. Bring "L" shape diagonal across chest from the left shoulder to the right hip as a royal sash.
- "(is) my"** Point to self.
- "Shepherd."** With the right hand, separate and extend the index and middle fingers with the rest of the hand closed to create a "V" shape. Brush the "V" shape along the left forearm two times, create the letter "V" shape with the left hand, and place the right-hand "V" shape gently on top of the left-hand "V" shape.

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "The Lord is my Shepherd," Psalm 23:1. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



Jesus as the King who teaches

THE WORSHIP

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 "It's Praise Time!" as children move to that designated area.



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

Last week, we learned about the wise man who built his house on the rock. Today, we will hear the story Jesus told about the good shepherd. Jesus is our Good Shepherd. That's our Whisper Verse for today. Let's whisper, "The Lord is my Shepherd." Quietly review Whisper Verse together: "The Lord is my Shepherd." Include sign language.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd for His followers all over the world. Everyone who believes in Jesus belongs to Him. Let's thank Jesus, our Good Shepherd, by giving our money offerings now. Sing: "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" 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."

We are like sheep that belong to Jesus, the Good Shepherd. We belong to Him and He loves us very much. Sing: "How Wide."



The good shepherd

THE WORD

Additional supplies: Classroom Kingdom Stories Treasure Box, Lesson 25 “House on the Rock” craft sample

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

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

Open the Classroom Kingdom Stories Treasure Box to display the Lesson 25 “House on the Rock” craft sample. **Last time, we learned God wants us to make wise choices. Who would like to tell the story of the wise builder we learned last week?** Let one or two children take a turn telling the story while they hold the craft sample.

Today, we will hear how Jesus is the Good Shepherd. Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to John 10:16a.

WATCH THE WORD: JOHN 10:14-16

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, hold the “Shepherd’s Staff” craft sample. Other visual options include Color This Story or any related picture.

- **“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? (The Lord Jesus.) **That’s like our Whisper Verse! Let’s say it together: “The Lord is my Shepherd.”** Include sign language or hand motions.



Who knows His sheep? (Jesus.) **Let’s find our answer in the Bible.** Read John 10:14 from the teacher’s Bible. **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.

Teacher Tip: Encourage families to use the instructions on the Ponder, Pray & Play card to make a Kingdom Stories Treasure Box. Children can use it to store their Kingdom Stories Treasures for the lessons from Unit 5 and 6 (Lessons 23-32). The Kingdom Stories Treasure Box Sticker goes on the outside of the Treasure Box. During each lesson, children create the craft to be placed in the Treasure Box. When Units 5 and 6 are completed, there will be a total of ten crafts inside the Treasure Box and ten stickers decorating the outside of the box.

CRAFT: SHEPHERD'S STAFF

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

Supplies: Sturdy brown paper, scissors, glue, crayons or markers, various decorative items such as buttons, dried pasta, sequins, ribbon, stickers, etc.

Prepare: Cut a 6" shepherd's staff (J-shape) from paper.

Directions:

1. Color shepherd's staff.
2. Glue on your favorite items to decorate your shepherd's staff.

Craft Discussion:

- **Who is your Shepherd?** (Jesus.) **The Lord Jesus is your Shepherd. That's like our Whisper Verse! Let's say it with the motions right now!** Say Whisper Verse together with hand motions.
- **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" craft sample, objects to designate sheep's pen on floor (chairs, sheet or blanket, twine or yarn)

Prepare: Using objects such as chairs, a sheet or blanket, twine or yarn, designate an area in your classroom as the sheep's pen.

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. Have children stand at the other end of the room from the sheep's pen.
2. Choose a child to be the shepherd. Give them the shepherd's staff.
3. The remaining children are the sheep. They crawl on their hands and knees near the shepherd.
4. The shepherd walks slowly toward the pen repeating, **"I am the shepherd. Follow me."**
5. Sheep crawl on floor and say, **"Bahhh, bahhh"** as they follow the shepherd.
6. 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 your Shepherd, Jesus. He will keep you safe, too!

GAME: JESUS KNOWS YOU

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

Supplies: Soft ball or soft, toy lamb

Teacher Tip: Children may roll the ball to each other or if using a toy lamb, have the children pass it from one child to the next.

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: **"Tell us something Jesus knows about you."**
4. Child responds by giving a fact about themselves such as a favorite game, song, activity, sport, etc.)
5. Child rolls ball to another child.
6. Continue playing until all children have had a turn.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: FLUFFY SHEEP

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

Snack Suggestion: Marshmallows

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.
 - **Let's eat fluffy, white marshmallows as we think about fluffy, white sheep.**
 - **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.) **That's our Whisper Verse!** Choose a child to demonstrate motions to Whisper Verse: "The Lord is my Shepherd."
 - **Sheep belong to their shepherd. You belong to Jesus and He loves you. Jesus takes care of you, too!**
 - **Jesus keeps you safe. Whenever you are scared, close your eyes and think about Jesus hugging you close to Him.**
 - **Let's say, "I belong to Jesus."** Repeat with children. **You belong to Jesus!**



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "Shepherd's Staff" craft. Tell someone the Lord Jesus is your Shepherd and you belong to Him. Put your "Shepherd's Staff" in your Kingdom Stories Treasure Box when you get home. You can make your Treasure Box from any box you find at home. Remember to put your sticker on the outside of your Treasure Box.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Tell them the story of Jesus as the Good Shepherd.**

COLOR THIS STORY: "The Good Shepherd." Discuss Bible Story and play Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song "Sing Praises" as children color.



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; sing praises to our King, sing praises.
For God is the King of all the earth." Psalm 47:6-7a

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," CD player

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. Sing or play recording of "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 things we love. He gives us so many good things. Think of one thing you love that God has given to you. 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. Child in the center chooses another child to stand and takes that child's place in the circle.
7. Play until each child has had a turn giving praise.

Option: Each time children say the word "sings" or "praises," use the following hand motions:

"Sings" Hands move back and forth in rhythm as if conducting music for a choir.

"Praises" Index finger points from mouth outward (sign language for "truth"), then clap hands twice.



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 and shepherds.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 5, Lesson 26: The Good Shepherd

PONDER! Read John 10:14-16 with your family. Show your Shepherd's Staff to them. Talk about how Jesus is the Good Shepherd. You belong to Jesus, just like a sheep belongs to its shepherd. Talk about all the things Jesus knows 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 box from home decorated to be a Treasure Box). Put today's craft inside your Treasure Box. Put your Kingdom Stories Treasure Box Sticker on the outside of your Treasure Box. During the week, take out your craft treasures to remind your family of Jesus' stories.

Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse: Psalm 47:6-7a

"Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. For God is the King of all the earth."