



Ezekiel and the Sheep

Lesson Aim: To know God cares for us
like a shepherd cares for his sheep.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The God Who Is Lord of All

THE WORD

Bible Story: Ezekiel 34:6, 11-15, 31

What He Has Done: God showed Ezekiel that we are like sheep and He is the shepherd.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." Psalm 150:6

Unit 9: The Prophets and God's Sovereignty			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
43	Ezekiel and the Sheep, Ezekiel 34:6, 11-15, 31	God showed Ezekiel that we are like sheep and He is the shepherd.	To know God will care for us like a shepherd cares for his sheep.
44	Ezekiel and the River, Ezekiel 47:1-12	God gave Ezekiel a vision of a river flowing out of the temple.	To know life and growth come from God.
45	Daniel's Friends and the Fiery Furnace, Daniel 3:12-21, 24-28	God was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the furnace.	To know God is with you wherever you go.
46	Daniel and the Lions' Den, Daniel 6:14-23, 25-27	God kept Daniel safe from the lions.	To know God keeps us safe.
47	Daniel's Dream About Heaven, Daniel 7:1, 13-14	God gave Daniel a dream about Jesus' return.	To know we will see Jesus coming with the clouds one day.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 71:14-19. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for rescuing the lost. Fill Your children with Your Spirit so they might know the salvation that comes from You alone. Amen."

TEACHER'S TIP

Attention, Please! If you are having trouble getting the attention of your class, try whispering. Children will pay closer attention if they have to put more effort into hearing you.



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Welcome	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a sheep
		Coloring Center: The Lord Is Our Shepherd	Coloring pages of a shepherd with sheep, cotton balls, glue stick, crayons
		Play-Dough Center: Pick A Pet	Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		Block Center: Sheep Pen	Blocks, several toy sheep or cotton balls
		Bible Memory Verse Center: Bubbling Praise	Bubbles, Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "Let Everything That Has Breath"
	Up to 5	Prepare for Worship	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Praise music, optional: musical instruments Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Let Everything That Has Breath" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Be Still and Know" "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled" "Give Thanks to the Lord" "He Is Mighty to Save" "I Lift Up My Eyes" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "Sing Praises" "The Lord Is Faithful"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 9, Lesson 43
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Ezekiel 34:6, 11-15, 31	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Ezekiel 34:11 Visuals: Picture of the Bible story, soft toy sheep
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: The Lord's Sheep	Sturdy white and black paper, small paper plate, 2 cotton balls, glue, crayons or markers
		Game: Gather the Sheep	Cotton balls, basket
		Game: The Lord's Sheep	Shepherd's staff (large stick, cane, etc.), chairs
		Snack: Sheep Snack	Marshmallows or cotton candy
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 9, Lesson 43
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Ezekiel 34:6, 11-15, 31	None
	Up to 10	Game: Praise Balloon	Balloon
	Up to 10	Game: Instrument Praise	Children's musical instruments, Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "Let Everything That Has Breath"
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story assuring children of God's care

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



The God who is Lord of all

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 stamp or sticker of a sheep. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of a sheep help you remember the Lord is your shepherd.**

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 LORD IS OUR SHEPHERD

SUPPLIES

Coloring pages of a shepherd with sheep, cotton balls, glue stick, crayons

DO

Children color and add a cotton ball to one of the sheep on the picture while talking about today's story.

TALK ABOUT

What kind of animals do you see in the picture? (Sheep.) **What sound do sheep make?** (Baa.) **How do sheep feel?** (Soft.) **You can glue a cotton ball to one of the sheep in your picture to make it soft like a real sheep.**

What do we call a person who cares for sheep? (A shepherd.) **Shepherds always watch over their sheep and keep them from harm. In our story today, God tells Ezekiel to tell people the Lord is our shepherd. Remember, "Lord" is a special name for God. If the Lord is our shepherd, does that mean we are sheep?** (No.) **God wants us to know He cares for us just like a shepherd cares for his sheep. He watches over us and keeps us from harm.**

PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: PICK A PET

SUPPLIES

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools

DO

Children play with the play-dough while talking about a pet of their choice. Encourage children to make animals with the play-dough.

TALK ABOUT

If you could have any kind of animal for a pet, what kind of animals would you want? (Children respond.) **Can you make one of those animals out of the play-dough?**

Ask individual children about the animal they have chosen: **What do you like about that animal?** (Child responds.) **What would you need to do to care for that animal?** (Child responds.)

THE WELCOME *continued...*

BLOCK CENTER: SHEEP PEN

SUPPLIES

Blocks, several toy sheep or cotton balls

DO

Children pretend to be shepherds and build a sheep pen for their sheep.

TALK ABOUT

What do we call a person who cares for sheep? (A shepherd.) **Let's pretend we are shepherds. Shepherds keep their sheep in a pen or a fenced in area to keep them safe at night. Can you build a sheep pen for your sheep?** Give the children some toy sheep or cotton balls to keep in their sheep pen. Ask the children what else they would need to do to care for their sheep.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE CENTER: BUBBLING PRAISE

SUPPLIES

Bubbles, Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "Let Everything That Has Breath"

DO

Play the Bible Memory Verse Song and blow bubbles for the children to keep in the air with their breath.

TALK ABOUT

Our Bible Memory Verse says, "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." Remember, "Lord" is one of God's special names. The Lord wants everything that breathes to praise Him. Put your hands on your stomach as you breathe in and out. We can use our breath to keep bubbles in the air. Demonstrate by blowing bubbles and keeping them in the air by blowing on them. Let's listen to our Bible Memory Verse Song as we play. Encourage the children to blow on the bubbles you make.

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)

"Let everything	(everything) Right fist, thumb pointed up, slides down the thumb of the left fist, thumb pointed up. The right hand then opens up and sweeps away from the body.
that has breath	(breath) Both open hands move back and forth away from the body.
praise	The index finger comes off the mouth, followed by clapping hands together.
the Lord."	(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
Psalms 150:6	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.



The God who is Lord of all

THE WORSHIP

Supplies: Praise music, optional: musical instruments, ribbons

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.



It's Praise Time—our time to praise God together. First, let's praise Him through prayer. Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear God, we praise You for who You are and for loving us so much. Amen.**



Now, let's praise God with singing. Sing: "I Lift Up My Eyes." Optional: Have the children walk in a circle while helpers hold the ribbon for the children to walk under. Periodically, move the height of the ribbon higher and lower during the song.

The Lord cares for us just as a good shepherd cares for his sheep. He wants us to take care of each other. When we give our offering to the church, the money we give helps take care of the needs of others. Let's thank God for the way He cares for us as we give our money offering. Sing: "Be Still and Know" while collecting the offering.



Today's story is about a man named Ezekiel who told us the Lord is our shepherd. Let's see if Lello, our favorite lamb, and her friend Delbert know we are like sheep. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 9, Lesson 43.



Everything belongs to the Lord. Everything that breathes can praise Him. Let's take in a big breath and blow it back out. Lead children in a deep inhale and exhale. **That reminds me of our new Bible Memory Verse Song. Let's learn it together. Remember, "Lord" is one of God's special names.** Practice a few times with the motions.

"Let everything	(everything) Right fist, thumb pointed up, slides down the thumb of the left fist, thumb pointed up. The right hand then opens up and sweeps away from the body.
that has breath	(breath) Both open hands move back and forth away from the body.
praise	The index finger comes off the mouth, followed by clapping hands together.
the Lord."	(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
Psalm 150:6	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



Sing: "Let Everything That Has Breath."



Ezekiel tells us we are the Lord's sheep

THE WORD

Supplies: Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Ezekiel 34:11, picture of the Bible story, soft toy sheep

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.

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.

Who has a pet? Children raise their hands. **What kind of pet do you have?** (Children respond.) **What do you have to do to care for your pet?** (Feed it, give it water, give it a clean place to live and sleep, care for it when it is sick.)

Many animals have someone to care for them. Animals on a farm are cared for by farmers; animals in the zoo are cared for by zoo keepers. Show children the sheep. **What do we call a person who cares for sheep?** (A shepherd.) **Shepherds watch over their sheep and keep them from harm.**

The Lord God gave a man named Ezekiel a message to share with all people. Let's listen to the message. Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Ezekiel 34:11.



WATCH THE WORD: EZEKIEL 34:6, 11-15, 31

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

- **The Lord told Ezekiel,**
- **"The people are My sheep.**
- **And I am their shepherd;**
- **I lay them down to sleep.**

- **"When they are lost, I will search for them.**
- **They will not be afraid.**
- **I will lead them to green pastures.**
- **I, Myself will keep them safe."**

Who will search for His sheep? (The Lord.) **Who is your shepherd?** (The Lord.)



The Lord 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.

CRAFT: THE LORD'S SHEEP

Purpose: To remind the children that the Lord said He is their shepherd and they are His sheep.

Supplies: Sturdy white and black paper, small paper plate, 2 cotton balls, glue, crayons or markers

Prepare: From sturdy white paper, draw and cutout a sheep head and body that are about the same size as the plate. From sturdy black paper, draw and cutout two sheep feet (rectangles). On the bottom edge of the body, print: **The Lord Cares for His Sheep. Ezekiel 34:6, 11-15, 31**

Optional: Children may use eye stickers instead of drawing eyes.

Directions:

1. Draw eyes, nose, and a mouth on the sheep's face.
2. Glue the sheep cutout onto the paper plate.
3. Glue the feet to the back side of the plate so they stick out below the sheep cutout.
4. Write the child's name as a nametag on the sheep's body.
5. Stretch two cotton balls and glue them to the sheep's body.

Craft Discussion:

- **Who is your shepherd?** (The Lord.)
- **Are you the Lord's sheep?** (Yes.)
- **Sometimes, sheep get lost. What will the shepherd do?** (Search and find them.)
- **Sometimes, the sheep are hungry. What does the shepherd do?** (Gives them food.)
- **Who will care for you like the shepherd cares for his sheep?** (The Lord.)

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: GATHER THE SHEEP

Purpose: Children will be shepherds and gather sheep to discover how the Lord cares for them.

Supplies: Cotton balls, basket

Prepare: Scatter many cotton balls around the room. Place the basket in the center of the room.

Oh, no! The sheep have scattered everywhere! Let's be good shepherds and gather them safely in the basket.

Directions:

1. On your signal, the children work together to pick up the cotton ball "sheep" and place them in the basket.
2. Play again, if desired.

Thank you for being good shepherds and taking care of your sheep. Who is your shepherd? (The Lord.) Are you His sheep? (Yes.) Does He take care of you? (Yes.)

GAME: THE LORD'S SHEEP

Purpose: Children will remember the Lord cares for them.

Supplies: Shepherd's staff (large stick, cane, etc.), chairs

Prepare: Place the chairs in the center of the room in a circle to create a sheep pen. Leave an opening between two of the chairs.

Teacher Tip: If you have a large group, divide the children into pairs. Have each pair take turns being the shepherd and the sheep.

Directions:

1. Choose one child to be the shepherd. That child holds the shepherd's staff.
2. The other children are the sheep. Encourage them to make sheep bleating sounds and to pretend to walk like sheep by crawling.
3. **Oh, no! The sheep have scattered everywhere!** Show the shepherd how to guide the sheep by pretending to climb mountains, cross rivers, and wandering the fields.
4. Dim the lights. **Now, it is night and the sheep are far from their safe pen. Who will bring them safely home?** (The shepherd.) Show the shepherd how to guide the sheep into the pen.
5. **Sheep, did your shepherd take care of you? (Yes.) The Lord is your shepherd. He takes care of you just like the shepherd takes care of his sheep. Do you have to worry? (No.) You don't have to worry because the Lord will take care of you!**
6. Let another child be the shepherd and play again.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: SHEEP SNACK

Purpose: Children will eat a snack while discussing how the Lord takes care of them.

Snack Suggestion: Marshmallows or cotton candy

This snack makes me think of fluffy sheep.

Directions:

1. Serve the snacks and drinks.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or another 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. Pray. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Sheep belong to their shepherd. You belong to the Lord.**
 - **Does the Lord love you?** (Yes.)
 - **Does the Lord take care of you?** (Yes.)
 - **Close your eyes. Imagine the Lord is hugging you close to Him. How does His hug feel?**
(Children respond.) **When you are worried, think about Him hugging you.**



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.

"Let everything	(everything) Right fist, thumb pointed up, slides down the thumb of the left fist, thumb pointed up. The right hand then opens up and sweeps away from the body.
that has breath	(breath) Both open hands move back and forth away from the body.
praise	The index finger comes off the mouth, followed by clapping hands together.
the Lord."	(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
Psalms 150:6	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: EZEKIEL 34:6, 11-15, 31

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

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and leads the children in doing the hand motions.

- **The Lord told Ezekiel,** (Point up to God.)
- **"The people are My sheep.** (Point to other children.)
- **I am like their shepherd;** (Point up to God.)
- **I lay them down to sleep.** (Rest cheek on folded hands.)

- **"When they are lost, I'll search for them.** (Cup hands around eyes, as binoculars.)
- **They will not be afraid.** (Shake head no.)
- **I'll lead them to green pastures.** (Point far away.)
- **I, Myself will keep them safe."** (Pretend to cradle a lamb in your arms.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." Psalm 150:6

GAME: PRAISE BALLOON

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Balloon

Hold your hand in front of your mouth and blow on it. Do you feel your breath? (Yes!) **We can use our breath to put air into balloons.** Inflate a balloon with your breath and knot it closed. The children can pretend to blow up imaginary balloons as they watch you. **We can also use our breath to praise the Lord. Lord is a special name we use for God. When I toss the balloon toward you, I want you to bop it (or catch it) and say, "I praise the Lord."**

Directions:

1. Have children stand in a circle.
2. Choose a child. As you toss the balloon toward the child, say **"Let name of child praise the Lord."**
3. When the child bops or catches the balloon, lead them in saying, **"I praise the Lord."**
4. Play until every child has had a turn.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: INSTRUMENT PRAISE

Purpose: Children learn and practice the meaning of the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Children's musical instruments, Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "Let Everything That Has Breath"

Teacher Tips: Create your own instruments by using two metal pot lids for cymbals, a wooden spoon and metal pot for a drum, or fill a container with a lid with dried beans or rice for a shaker. Children can also keep the rhythm by tapping two sticks together. **No Instruments Option:** Instead of using instruments, assign each child a different animal. Lead children in praising the Lord with the sound of each animal: **Let every name of an animal that has breath praise the Lord.** Children respond by making the sound of that animal.

The Lord wants everyone in the world to praise Him. Can you praise the Lord? (Children respond.)
When you hear the name of your instrument, play it to praise the Lord.

Directions:

1. Children repeat the Bible Memory Verse after you, one word at a time.
2. Give an instrument to each child. Be sure children know the name of the instruments.
3. **All that have name of an instrument praise the Lord.** Children with that instrument play.
4. Repeat step 3 until each child has played an instrument to praise the Lord.
5. Play the Unit 9 Bible Memory verse Song. Have the children praise the Lord together by marching and playing their instruments while they sing along.



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 assuring children of God's care.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 9, Lesson 43: Ezekiel and the Sheep

PONDER! God gave Ezekiel a message to share with all people (Ezekiel 34:6, 11-15, 31). What does a shepherd do? (Cares for his sheep.) Who is our shepherd? (God.) God will always watch over and care for us.

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for being my shepherd. I know You will always take care of me. Amen."

PLAY! Scatter cotton balls on the floor and pretend they are sheep. Place a basket on the floor for the sheep pen. Pretend you and your family are shepherds and gather the sheep in the pen. Talk about what shepherds do to take care of their sheep. How does the Lord take care of you?

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

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that has breath	(breath) Both open hands move back and forth away from the body.
praise	The index finger comes off the mouth, followed by clapping hands together.
the Lord."	(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
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