



Ezekiel and the Sheep

Lesson Aim: To know God will care 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.

THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "The Lord is my 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."



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a sheep
		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 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 Am with You" "Love One Another" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "The Lord Is Faithful" "We Love"
		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 Visual: 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, balls of paper in a basket, adhesive bandages
		Snack: Sheep Snack	Marshmallows or cotton candy
		Circle of Prayer	None
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 9, Lesson 43 Color This Story: "The Lord Is My Shepherd"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Ezekiel 34:6, 11-15, 31	None
	Up to 10	Game: Praise Balloon Bop	Balloon
	Up to 10	Game: Instrument Praise	Assorted 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 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. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of a sheep help you remember the Lord is your shepherd. Today's Whisper Verse is "The Lord is my shepherd."** Teach the 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.



The God who is Lord of all

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 “Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God” as children move to that designated area.



It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the God who is Lord of all. That means He is the one in control of everything in heaven and on the earth. 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.** Sing: “Let Everything That Has Breath.”

It is fun to praise the Lord together. He cares for us just as a good shepherd cares for his sheep. The Lord is our shepherd. That sounds like today's Whisper Verse. Let's try it together. Review Whisper Verse together: “The Lord is my shepherd.” Include sign language.

The Lord takes care of us and 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 Jesus 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.



The Lord is with us wherever we go. He saves us as a shepherd saves his lost sheep. Just like a good shepherd watches over his sheep, the Lord watches over us. Sing: “He Is Mighty to Save” and “I Am with You.”



Ezekiel tells us we are like the Lord's sheep

THE WORD

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.

Last time, we learned God saved Jeremiah from the well. Today, we will hear how the Lord God is our shepherd. 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 points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display a soft, toy sheep. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story, or any related picture.

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

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



Who will search for His sheep? (The Lord.) Let's find our answer in the Bible. Read Ezekiel 34:11 from the teacher's Bible.

Who is your shepherd? (The Lord.) Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say it together: "The Lord is my shepherd." Include the sign language or hand motions.



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 glue wiggle eyes on the face 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.)
- **That's like our Whisper Verse! Let's say it with the motions right now!** Say the Whisper Verse together with the hand motions: "The Lord is my shepherd."
- **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.) That's like our Whisper Verse! Let's say it together. Children say and sign the Whisper Verse: "The Lord is my shepherd."

GAME: THE LORD'S SHEEP

Purpose: Children will remember the Lord cares for them.

Supplies: Shepherd's staff (large stick, cane, etc.), chairs, balls of paper in a basket, adhesive bandages

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.

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. **Now, the sheep are hungry.** Give the shepherd balls of paper "food" to toss into the pen. The sheep pretend to eat.
6. **Now, one of the sheep is hurt.** Give the shepherd a bandage to place on one of the sheep.
7. **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!**
8. 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 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.
 - **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** Choose a child to demonstrate the motions to the Whisper Verse: "The Lord is my shepherd."
 - **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.**



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 "Lord's Sheep" craft. Tell someone the Lord is your shepherd and He is their shepherd, too!

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how the Lord takes care of you.**

COLOR THIS STORY: "The Lord Is My Shepherd." Discuss the Bible story and play the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Let Everything That Has Breath," as the children color.



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 acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **The Lord told Ezekiel,** (Point to heaven.)
- **"The people are My sheep.** (Point to other children.)
- **I am like their shepherd;** (Whisper Verse sign language.)
- **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 BOP

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

Supplies: Balloon

The Lord wants everything that breathes to praise Him. Every animal has breath. Let's see how many animals we can name. Children name several animals. Let's play a game with this balloon. Each time you bop the balloon, say the name of an animal who can praise the Lord!

Directions:

1. Have children stand in a circle.
2. **We can use our breath to put air into balloons.** Inflate the balloon with your breath. Knot the end as a seal. The children can pretend to blow up imaginary balloons as they watch you.
3. As you toss the balloon into the air, say the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse.
4. Children take turns bopping the balloon as they say the name of an animal that has breath to praise the Lord.
5. Play as long as you like.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: INSTRUMENT PRAISE

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

Supplies: Assorted 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 hit two sticks together and keep the rhythm. **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! Read Ezekiel 34:6, 11-15, 31 with your family. What were the sheep doing? Who searched for them? Who rescued the sheep? How will the Lord take care of them? The Lord is your shepherd. This Bible story is about how the Lord will take care of you.

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! "Gather the Sheep!" Scatter cotton balls on the floor and pretend they are sheep. Place a basket in the middle of 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?

Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse:

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