

The Good Shepherd!

Lesson learnt:

The Bible tells us that Jesus is the Good Shepherd but what does that mean exactly? A good shepherd knows his sheep, his sheep know him and when one of his sheep goes missing, well he will do anything to find and rescue that sheep! A good shepherd provides his sheep with everything they need while also guarding them from attacks.

JESUS IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD! And when we become part of His flock we experience the same provision, protection and familiarity that a flock of sheep have with their shepherd.

You will need three leaders: 1 storyteller, 2 shepherds and a child who will be Shelly Sheep. This child will need to be well prepared to act out the skit.

Items needed:

- Sheep and shepherd costumes
- A lion mask

Instructions/ skit:

Storyteller	<p>The Bible tells us that Jesus is the good shepherd John 10:14-15 reads: 14 "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—and I lay down my life for the sheep.</p> <p>So we all know what a <i>shepherd</i> is. A shepherd is someone that looks after a sheep - just like little Shelly Sheep here. But today I want to see if you clever people know what this Bible verse is saying a GOOD shepherd is.</p> <p>I've invited two shepherds to join us today and maybe you can help me decide which one is a GOOD shepherd.</p> <p>And Action!</p>
Shepherd 1	<p><i>(enter and walk straight up to Shelly Sheep and give her a cuddle)</i> Hello my Shelly Sheep – you look so lovely today!</p>
Shepherd 2	<p><i>(enter in and walk to one of the kids)</i> Oh hi ... so let me see you're my sheep aren't you, um?? Oh wait, it could be you. Man you all look the same...</p>

	(Walk to Shelly Sheep) Oh there you are ... Sammy is it, no no don't tell me it's spikey Spikey the sheep ...oh wait I've got it ... its Smelly. Smelly the sheep that's it!
Shepherd 1	It's SHELLY. SH – E – LLY. Shelly the sheep
Shepherd 2	Smelly ... Shelly. Close enough...
Storyteller	<p>FREEZE! (the actors all freeze in their spots)</p> <p>So who do you think the good shepherd is? (point to Shepherd 2) Or (point to Shepherd 1)</p> <p>Yes! This is the good shepherd because like the Bible verse says ...A good shepherd knows his sheep!</p> <p>Action!</p>
Shelly Sheep	(to Shepherd 1) Hello Shepherd. I love spending time with you.
Shepherd 2	And with me? <i>(all excited)</i>
Shelly Sheep	Um? Who are you again? <i>(questioning voice)</i>
Storyteller	<p>FREEZE!</p> <p>Let's read the verse again ... John 10:14-15 reads 14 "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me</p> <p>Did Shelly Sheep know this shepherd? <i>(point to Shepherd 2)</i> No Did Shelly Sheep know this shepherd? <i>(point to Shepherd 1)</i> So which one is the good shepherd? Yes. This is the good shepherd because ... A good shepherd's sheep knows him!</p> <p>Action!</p>
Shepherd 1	<p><i>(Shelly Sheep hides)</i> Oh no where did Shelly Sheep go? She's lost! I must find her. <i>(starts to walk around searching everywhere desperately)</i></p>
Shepherd 2	What? A sheep is missing? <i>(pretend to count)</i> Eh it's only one. I've got so many others. What's one more? <i>(unconcerned)</i>
Shepherd 1	<p>I won't stop looking until she is found! Everybody, stand up! <i>(checks everywhere, check under armpits, inside their shoes etc).</i></p> <p>There you are Shelly Sheep! YAY I found you! Woohoo I am so glad you're not lost anymore. <i>(does a little victory dance)</i></p>

Shepherd 2	Huh! you found her! (<i>hands on hips</i>)
Storyteller	<p>FREEZE</p> <p>So who do you think is the good shepherd this time? (point to Shepherd 2) Or (point to Shepherd 1)</p> <p>Yes, this shepherd was just like the parable of the lost sheep ... he/she didn't give up until the sheep was found and rejoiced when it was! ... A good shepherd rejoices when He finds a sheep that was lost!</p> <p>Action!</p>
Shepherd 2	So where have you been little sheep? Huh? Huh? Where? Don't come with that <i>I'm sorry</i> story (<i>angrily waving finger</i>)
Shepherd 1	(<i>Pushes Shepherd 2 aside</i>) It's ok Shelly. I'm just glad you're back now. Oh dear I see you've hurt yourself. Let me help you. (<i>bandages</i>)
Shelly Sheep	I'm sorry. I should have stayed close to you Good Shepherd.
Shepherd 1	That's ok. I forgive you.
Storyteller	<p>(<i>as Shepherd 1 tends to Shelly Sheep</i>)</p> <p>Only a good shepherd would forgive like that! Which one would you like to be your shepherd? (<i>point</i>)</p> <p>A good shepherd forgives And a good shepherd looks after his sheep</p> <p>Oh NO! A scary lion is coming to kill the sheep! (someone wearing the lion mask runs into the room, pretending to catch the sheep)</p>
Shepherd 2	<p>(<i>with back to the lion</i>) What? I'm not scared of a lion. Look at these muscles.</p> <p>(<i>turns around</i>) Ahhhhhh! It's a lion!!! Mommyyyyyy. (<i>run and hide behind Shelly Sheep and then Storyteller</i>)</p>
Shepherd 1	(<i>jump in front of Shelly Sheep</i>) I'll save you Shelly Sheep! Even if it means I have to die for you!
Storyteller	<p>FREEZE!</p> <p>And that's just what the Good Shepherd did for each of YOU!</p> <p>When Jesus said "I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD" He was telling us that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He knows us - and He wants us to know Him. - He rejoices when we come to Him rather than being lost in our sin

- He is the one that forgives us
- He is the one that is strong and looks after us when we are weak.
- Jesus is the one that saves us. He laid down His life for us. And because of Jesus our Good Shepherd we get to spend forever and ever and EVER with Him in Heaven one day. Isn't that amazing?

The Bible says we are His sheep and if I am a sheep then I choose Jesus as my Good Shepherd. What about you?