

THE WORD BECAME FLESH



CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

#XMAS – The GOOD SHEPHERD John 10:11-16; Psalm 23

PICTURES (Note: Inserted in brackets at the appropriate place in the lesson is the number of the picture to show the students.)

Xmas-1 Manger Scene with Shepherds

REVIEW (Before teaching lesson)

Skip the review session for Christmas week. Let the students know that you will review the previous lesson the Sunday following Christmas.

LESSON CONTENT

- Introduction: (picture Xmas-1) What is this a picture of?

In a nativity scene at Christmas, there are always shepherds and sheep along with Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus. Why is that? Jesus birth was first announced to shepherds who were out in the fields taking care of their sheep. When the shepherds heard the good news of the Savior's birth from the angels, they hurried off to Bethlehem to find the Savior God had promised.

Being a shepherd was a very common job people did in Israel. What does a shepherd do? A shepherd is responsible to care for and protect his sheep. He leads them to safe pastures where there is plenty of food and water. He keeps wild animals away that would harm them. He rescues them if they get themselves in a bad place. He takes care of them if they get injured or sick.

Long before Jesus' birth, God had promised to send a shepherd to Israel who would be born in Bethlehem and lead and take care of his people. Jesus fulfilled this prophecy. Jesus called himself the Good Shepherd.

- **Lesson Book:** Read the book. Refer to the discussion questions.

Title: What have we been called to?

Page 1 – 1 Peter 2:25

(Picture of shepherd with sheep)

All people are like sheep,
they are easily led astray.
That's why they need a shepherd
to follow and obey.
We shouldn't be dumb sheep,
and choose to do what's wrong.
We must trust a loving shepherd
to encourage us along.

Page 2 – Matthew 2:6

(Picture of Jesus as a shepherd with sheep)

A shepherd long was promised
to God's people, Is-ra-el.
To guide them on God's path of life,
and save them out of hell.
When God's Son came to earth,
the promise was fulfilled.
People have a shepherd
if to Christ their heart they yield.

Page 3 – Isaiah 40:11

(Another picture of Jesus as a shepherd with sheep)

Our shepherd wants to keep us safe,
underneath his arm.
He wants to give abundant life,
and keep us out of harm.
He wants to guide our steps
in the way of truth and light.
Good sheep will follow after him,
and choose to do what's right.

Page 4 – John 10:27-28

(Picture of sheep in a good pasture)

If we are faithful sheep,
we will hear our shepherd's voice.
To follow and stay close to him
will be our daily choice.
To green pastures he will lead us,
where we can learn and grow.
We just have to listen to him;
his voice we have to know.

Page 5 – John 10:14-15

(Picture of Jesus with people)

At Christmas we remember
the gift from God above.
He sent his promised shepherd
to the people he does love.
Our Shepherd gave his life for us,
so we can live with him.
And when we follow Jesus,
eternal life we enter in.

Page 6 – Hebrews 13:20-21

(Picture of a candy cane)

The candy cane reminds us;
our good Shepherd came to save.
Because of his great love for us,
his life he freely gave.
We can trust in Jesus;
the Shepherd God did send.
It's so good to know that Jesus
is our shepherd and our friend.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Day 1: How are people like sheep? What does that mean? What does a shepherd do for his sheep?

Day 2: What did God promise the people of Israel? What would that shepherd do for his people? Who is the Good Shepherd God promised?

Day 3: As our Good Shepherd what does Jesus want to do for us?

Day 4: What will we do if we are faithful sheep? Where will our Good Shepherd lead us?

Day 5: What will our Good Shepherd do for us because he loves us? What will happen if we follow him?

Day 6: What should the candy cane at Christmas remind us of?

Review: Select a couple questions from above to ask the students again.

- **Prayer:** Thank Jesus for being your Good Shepherd and leading you along God's path. Pray that you would listen to his voice and follow him.
- **The Big Question:** What does the Good Shepherd do for his sheep?

Our Good Shepherd protects and provides for us.

ACTIVITIES (Completed after the lesson)

Any age appropriate activity can be included which fits into the club time. The activities with a star are included on the weekly sheet.

★ **Coloring:** Color in the lesson picture.

★ **Activity:** Coloring

Color in a candy cane as a reminder that Jesus is our Good Shepherd.

★ **Lesson Rhyme:** Practice the lesson rhyme with movements.

sh—sh	Put index finger in front of lips like "sh"
Shepherd	Make sign of "J"
Safe	Cross arms with fists in front
beneath his arm	Tuck hands under arms
sh—sh—shepherd	Same as above
Keeps us	Make scooping motion with hand in front
out of	Shake finger "no"
harm	Make chopping motion with side of hand on palm



- **Discovery Activity:** Role Play
Act out how a shepherd takes care of his sheep.
- **Craft:** Bead Candy Cane Ornament
Materials: red or white Chenille stems, red and white beads, thin red, white or green ribbon
Preparation: Cut the chenille stems and the ribbon into six inch pieces.
Instructions: String beads alternating red and white on the chenille stem. Bend the stem into a candy cane shape. Tie a piece of ribbon to the top of the candy cane to hang it from.
- **Song:** Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me this I know.
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong.
They are weak but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me.
The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me, he who died
Heaven's gates to open wide.
He will wash away my sin.
Let this little child come in.

JOURNAL

The journal is included in the class booklet for the students to complete at home. It has six poetic readings and related Bible verses. It would be beneficial for the teacher to read through and be familiar with its content.