

Adventures with GOD!

FOLLOW GOD (A.2.WINTER.1)

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| Biblical Reference | John 10:1-5 |
| Key Verse | John 10:27 |
| Key Concept | God guides me and I will trust and follow. |
| Educational Objectives | At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: 1. Explain how the sheep follow the shepherd 2. Sing a song that expresses that God guides us 3. Say the Bible verse by memory |

Life Application

God's plan for our lives is that we would follow God in obedience, trusting that God is the best guide and shepherd we have. As God's children we need to recognize that God is our Father and obey. The children will learn that we obey God with confidence because God is like a good shepherd that takes care of his sheep. God has promised to guide us and be with us, taking care of us in love no matter where we are.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

| Activity | Materials | Time |
|-------------------|---|------------|
| Opening Prayer | Candle | 1 minute |
| Game | | 10 minutes |
| Bible exploration | Illustrations, Bible | 10 minutes |
| Activity | Footprints | 10 minutes |
| Craft | Paper, crayons, cotton, scissors, glue, stamp pad | 10 minutes |
| Snack, song | | 10 minutes |
| Closing prayer | Candle | 1 minute |

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INSTRUCTIONS

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them, palms up, as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today. Light the candle.

Prayer: “God we light this candle remembering: you made light, you made us, and you are with us now. Amen.” (For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer.)

Game: Once the majority of children have arrived, begin with a game of “Follow the leader.” As the leader, take the children for a little walk. They should follow the actions that you do. Take them outside of the classroom and when you return, invite them to sit on the floor in a circle.

Bible Exploration: Using the illustrations in this lesson or a sock puppet or a paper bag puppet, tell the story of a sheep. Name the sheep (ex. “Snowball,”) any name that you think is appropriate. This story is based off of John 10: 1-5, where Jesus identifies himself as a shepherd. Make sure to have read this story previously and to open your Bible to John, explaining to the children that Jesus compares himself to a shepherd. But, what does a shepherd do? That’s what we are going to find out through the story today.

“My name is and I am a sheep. I live in a place called a sheep pen. I have a friend and he is my shepherd. My shepherd always takes me where there is green grass so I can eat. My shepherd also shows me where I can get fresh water to drink, so I’m not thirsty. I can’t drink from the river. I’m scared of the river because the water runs so fast. My shepherd finds other places for me to drink water. One time when I was looking for flowers to eat, I realized that I’d wandered really far away from the other sheep. I was scared and began to cry. It was night and the sky was getting dark and I could hear wolves in the distance. I didn’t know what to do. When I was almost out of hope I heard my friend’s voice! What joy....what a relief! My friend the shepherd found me. You know what, I love my shepherd. My shepherd knows my name and I recognize his voice. I know that I need to keep following him because he always takes care of me and guide me.”

After the sheep tells his or her story, ask the children what the shepherd does for the sheep? Review the ways a shepherd takes care of the sheep, knows the sheep by name, etc. And what do the sheep do when they hear the shepherd’s voice? They follow. Jesus, in John 10:1-5, said he is like our shepherd. He takes care of us. He knows our name. We follow him. And Jesus guides us, just like the shepherd guides the sheep.

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Activity: Using as a pattern the outline of footprints (found in the following pages), make some out of colored paper and put them on the floor using tape to keep them in place (previous to the class). Invite the children to follow the foot prints. Explain that God invites us to follow in Jesus' footsteps. Jesus guides and we follow. Ask where they think Jesus is guiding them. Have the trail of foot prints lead to a place where they will make their craft.

Craft: In this lesson you will find various craft options. Choose the one that will work best for your group. Remember to use the time working on the craft to talk with the students about the Bible story.

Snack and song: Before you serve the snack, learn the Bible verse together (John 10:27). Remember how important it is to help them to have God's word in their head and heart. You can write the verse out on illustrations of sheep and shepherds, because they won't know how to read but the symbols and illustrations can help them remember. End the class with some songs. Find songs that talk about Jesus as our shepherd, about following God, etc.

Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. Light the candle.

Prayer: Thank you God for making us, Thank you God for making the world. Amen

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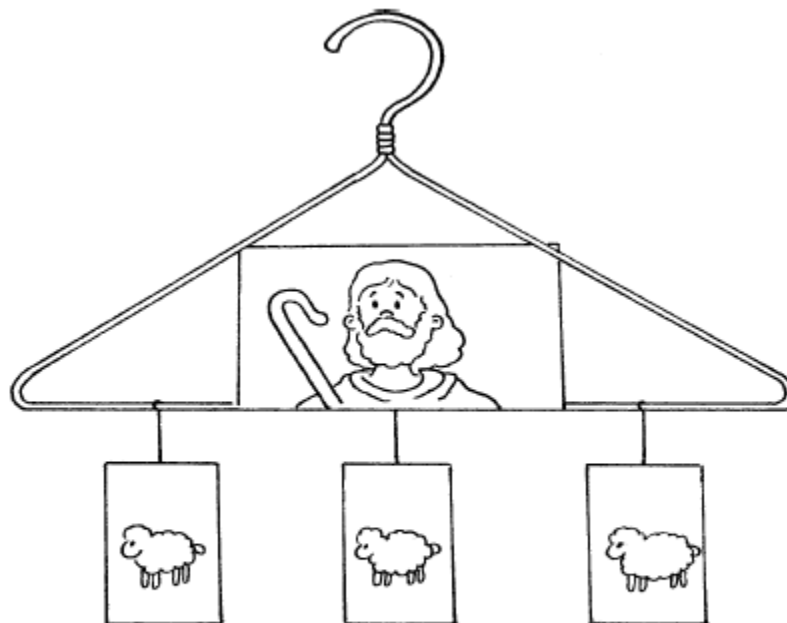
CRAFT 1

One of the ways to help them remember that God is our good shepherd is to make a mobile with a shepherd and sheep. The children can take the mobile home and place it somewhere they can see it each day.

Materials: patterns, scissors, glue, clothes hanger, yarn, cotton balls, Bible verse, tape

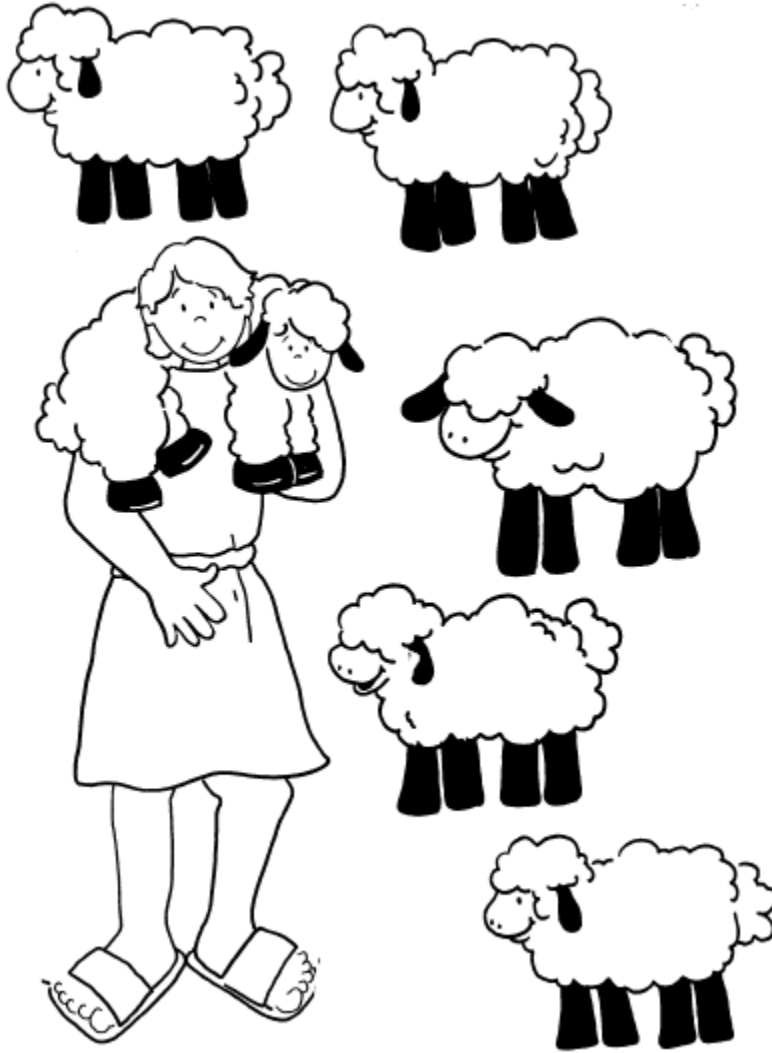
Instructions:

1. Make a copy of each of the patterns for each child and give them the figures already cut out so they can color them.
2. Help them glue cotton balls on the sheep.
3. Help them attach the figures to a coat hanger using yarn and tape.
4. Tape the illustration of the shepherd as shown below.



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PATTERN



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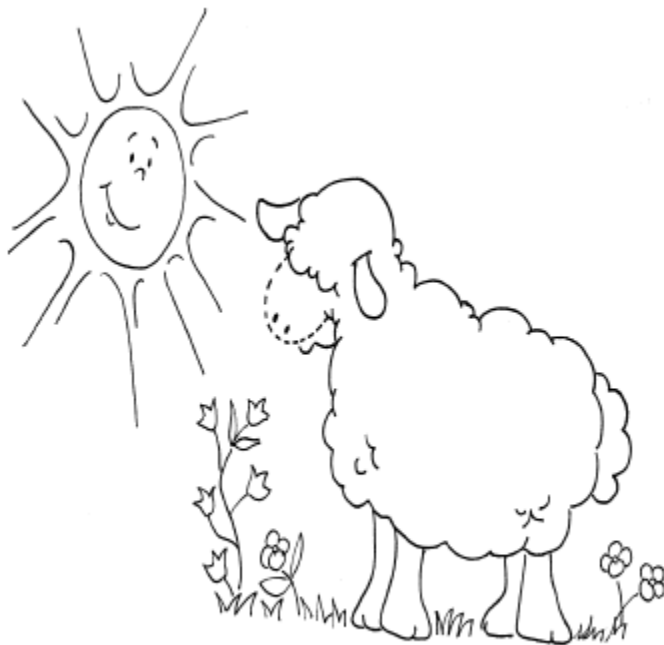
CRAFT 2

Jesus is our good shepherd who takes care of us and loves us. Jesus loves us because we are like his sheep.

Materials: A copy of the drawing, cotton balls, a stamp pad, water, soap, paper towels

Instructions:

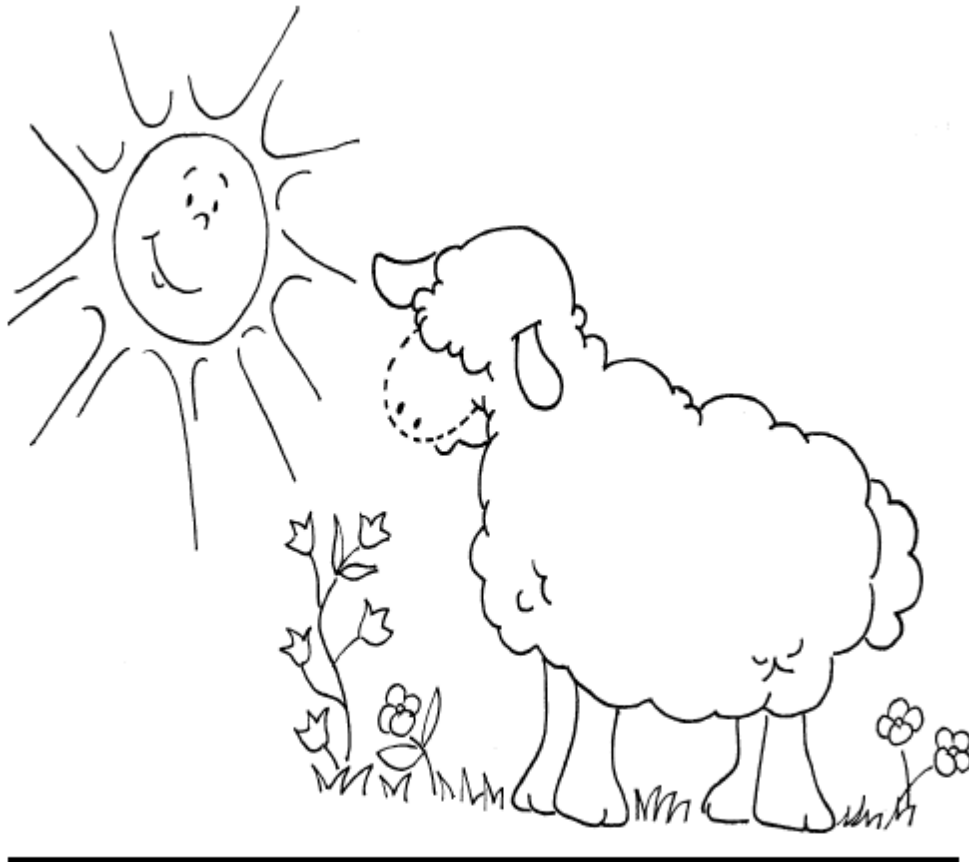
1. Make sure each child has a copy of the drawing found on the following page.
2. Using a stamp pad, place their index finger on the pad, then have them make a finger print on the drawing, so that their finger print will become the sheep's face. (Wash their hands afterwards with soap and water)
3. Then, help them put glue on the sheep's body and attach cotton balls.
4. Help them fold over the bottom part of the paper so that the sheep stands up.



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CRAFT 2

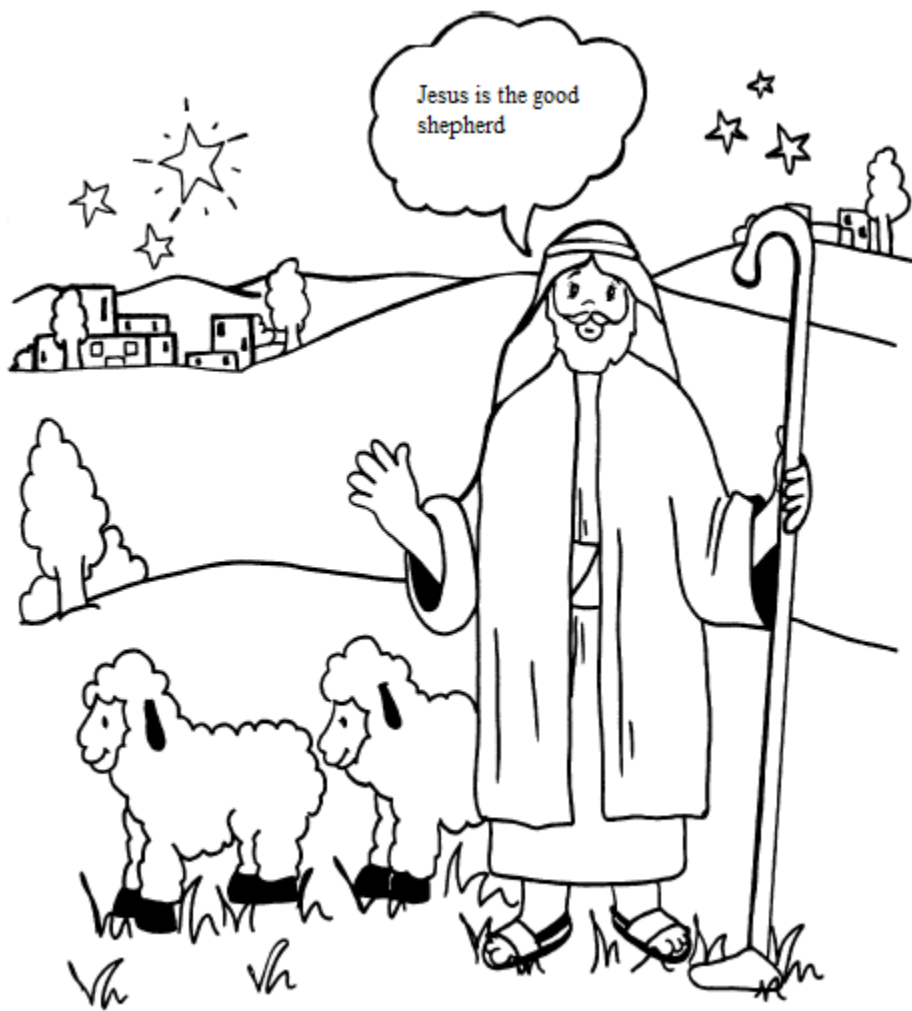
Pattern



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WORKSHEET

To color



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GAME

The Bible tells us that we can recognize the voice of the good shepherd and follow the shepherd. The children can play a game called, “the voice of the shepherd.” One of the children is the sheep and you can have them close their eyes or put a blind fold on. Another child is chosen to be the shepherd. Everyone should talk at the same time, including the shepherd. The child who has the blind fold on should point to the shepherd. The child should continue to try to identify the shepherd, when he or she does, then another shepherd and sheep is chosen.



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ILLUSTRATION

