

AUGUST 2, 2020
THE GOOD SHEPHERD

GAME TIME

LISTEN CAREFULLY

Choose someone to be the thief and close their eyes. The rest of the players are sheep and will crawl on their hands and knees. Explain that you (the adult) are the shepherd. When the thief says "sheep," all the players should bleat and move away from the thief. The thief will try to tag the sheep by following the sounds they make. If a player is tagged, you will call their name and lead them into the "pen" (a corner) until the next round.

SAY: *Jesus told a story: "If a person climbs into a sheep pen, he is not the shepherd; he is a thief," Jesus said. "When the sheep hear the shepherd's voice, they follow him. If the sheep hear a stranger's voice, they run away." Jesus is the Good Shepherd. Those who trust in Jesus are His sheep. They listen to Him, follow Him, and obey Him.*

BIBLE STORY

John 10

Jesus told a story to the Jewish leaders: "If a person climbs into a sheep pen, he is not the shepherd; he is a thief. A shepherd enters the pen through the gate. When the sheep hear the shepherd's voice, they recognize him and follow him. A shepherd calls his sheep by name, and he leads them. If the sheep hear the voice of a stranger, they will run away."

The people did not understand Jesus' story. Jesus was talking about God's people as sheep. The Jewish leaders were the stranger, and Jesus is the Shepherd.

Jesus said, "I am the gate for the sheep. They come in through Me and are saved." Jesus was saying that He is the gate that leads to true life. People who come to Him are like sheep who come to green pastures. Jesus warned, "A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy." Jesus was talking about the devil, who does not want people to follow God. Jesus said, "I have come so that they may have life."

"I am the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep," Jesus said. "I know My sheep, and My sheep know Me." Like a shepherd risks his own life to protect his sheep from wolves, Jesus was willing to die for His people. Jesus came to do His Father's plan, and He was going to die and rise again.

The Jews argued with one another. Many said, "Don't listen to Him; He has a demon. He's crazy." Others said, "That's not true. How can a demon give sight to the blind?"

I KNOW THAT VOICE

Select a player to stand in front of the room. They will close their eyes or wear a blindfold. Silently select another player to say the story point aloud. The blindfolded player will have to guess who spoke. Play as long as you like!

SAY: *Jesus said that His sheep hear His voice and know Him. We can hear God's words to us when we read the Bible. That is the key way that God "speaks" to us today. When we read God's Word, we learn more about Him and how He wants us to live. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who cares for His people. If you have faith that Jesus died for your sin and rose again on the third day, you are part of His flock, and the Bible is God's voice speaking to you..*



The Jewish leaders asked Jesus, "Are You really the Messiah? Just tell us."

Jesus answered, "I did tell you but you do not believe because you are not My sheep. My miracles prove who I am." Jesus reminded them that He is the good shepherd. "My sheep hear My voice, I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of My hand. The Father and I are one."

CHRIST CONNECTION: Following Jesus is not easy, but He is worth it. When we trust in Jesus, we give Him complete control of our lives. Jesus gave up His own life to rescue people from sin and give us life with God forever.