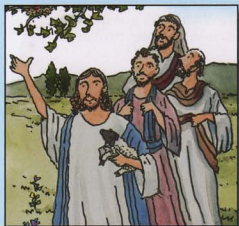


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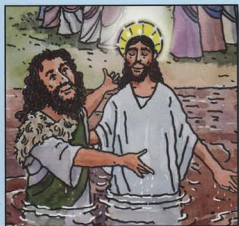
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Kindergarten

God Protects Us

Lesson Goal

This lesson will help the children understand how to compare themselves to the sheep described in John's Gospel and recognize Jesus as the Good Shepherd.

Key Points

- God protects us.
- God gives us what we need.

Reflection

From the image of the staff carried by Jesus as the Good Shepherd, to the Pope's staff, the staff symbolizes safety. Shepherds have the task of guiding sheep to safety and bounty. The shepherd's staff pulls back and rescues; the rod helps with difficult crossings. Many times sheep are unaware of dangers and pitfalls that await them, as we are unaware of similar threats. Psalm 23 begins, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." What comfort and peace are the rewards when we decide to relinquish our selfish wants and rely on provisions from the Good Shepherd.

Psalm 23 continues with images of resting under the shepherd's watchful eye, in the safety of his promises, finding plentiful peace, contentment, and mercy. Even death loses its power to a mere shadow of itself. Hungry hearts find enough food to satisfy. We are guarded while we graze, if we will only obey the Shepherd's lead.

John 10:14 says "I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me." Then in John 10:16 Jesus is quoted as saying, "and they will listen to my voice." "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep" (John 10:11). It couldn't be clearer. The Good Shepherd has since made that sacrifice, and as a good shepherd, saved us from danger. Now it is time to shepherd our children toward a better understanding of the Good Shepherd's guardianship as we ourselves deliberately work to more fully release our lives to the Good Shepherd's care. There we, and the children we lead, will find the peace the world cannot give us.

Reflection Question

When have you completely put your faith and trust in Jesus?

Praying with the Church

Eternal shepherd, protect and increase your flock, that all the sheep may be gathered into one flock under your Son, the one shepherd.

Liturgy of the Hours

Lesson 6 Materials

SUPPLY LIST

Welcoming

- ☐ sheep, wolf, and lion stuffed animals

Gathering

- ☐ materials for the Sacred Space as described on page 17

Discovering

- ☐ CD player

Exploring

Select one or more of the following activities:

1. Child/Family Activity Sheet

- ☐ crayons or markers

2. Pin the Wool on the Sheep Game

- ☐ poster board to create a large cutout silhouette of a sheep
- ☐ cotton balls
- ☐ paste, glue, or velcro
- ☐ blindfold or scarf
- ☐ scissors

3. Sheep and Shepherds (Dramatic Play)

- ☐ biblical-times clothing for two shepherds
- ☐ scissors
- ☐ tape

Items needed per child:

- ☐ 24" x 1.5" strip of cardboard
- ☐ cotton balls
- ☐ glue
- ☐ white card stock paper

Refer to page 88 for additional activity choices.

Sending

- ☐ CD player



PROGRAM-RELATED MATERIALS

- ☐ "The Gathering Song"
(Allelu! K music CD, track 2)

- ☐ Visit Allelu.com for an alternate way to present the Discovering story.
- ☐ "Jesus, the Light of the World"
(Allelu! K music CD, track 10)

1. Child/Family Activity Sheet

- ☐ Setting the Family Table activity for Lesson 6



3. Sheep and Shepherds (Dramatic Play)

- ☐ Activity Master 5



- ☐ "The Sending Song"
(Allelu! K music CD, track 3)

BEFORE-THE-LESSON PREPARATION

- ☐ Set up a table with stuffed animals: sheep (or decorated stuffed tube socks), wolves and lions.

1. Child/Family Activity Sheet

- ☐ Place crayons, markers, and copies of the Activity Sheet on an activity table.

2. Pin the Wool on the Sheep Game

- ☐ Cut out a silhouette of a sheep (large enough for the children to find and stick cotton balls to, while blindfolded)
- ☐ Have glue, paste, or velcro and cotton balls ready for the game.

3. Sheep and Shepherds (Dramatic Play)

- ☐ Place the props in the Dramatic Play area.
- ☐ Cut 24" x 1.5" strips of cardboard to make a headband for each sheep hat.
- ☐ Copy and cut out a set of sheep ears from Activity Master 5 on card stock paper for each child.
- ☐ Place the bowl of Holy Water on the prayer table.

Lesson 6



Welcoming

- Allow children to gather at a table that has been supplied with several stuffed animals (suggestions: many types of sheep, lions, and wolves).
- Have them talk about the dangers of lions and wolves to sheep and have them protect the sheep from the predators. They can decide the best way to keep the sheep safe as the lions and wolves “stalk” the sheep. *(Some children may have the tendency to get rough and express violence toward the sheep, allowing the wolves and lions to attack. Remind them that they are playing the role of the shepherd and pretending the lions and wolves are considering catching the sheep, but they shouldn't allow them to hurt the sheep.)*
- Prepare the children to transition to the next segment by informing them when there are just 5 minutes remaining.



Gathering



SING OR PLAY “THE GATHERING SONG” (ALLELUI! K MUSIC CD, TRACK 2)

- Lead children into the Sacred Space and sit around the prayer table.
- Lead the children into the Sacred Space and sit with them around the prayer table.

Now that we are in the Sacred Space, let us find the quiet in our hearts so that we can talk with God.

- Invite the children to quiet themselves. Then sit with them for several seconds of shared silence.
- Choose two children to set the prayer table. Encourage silence as the table is being prepared.

Thank you for preparing our prayer table so beautifully.

- Stand up and go around the prayer table, blessing each child by signing a cross on his or her forehead and welcoming the child by name.

Welcome, *(child's name)*, to this Sacred Space. May you come to know how much God loves you.

- Light the candle.

We light this candle because Jesus is the Light of the World.

- Lead them in the Sign of the Cross.

The shepherd boy, David, wrote a psalm about God. These are songs written long ago to praise or thank God. He said that God is like a shepherd over us. Just like a shepherd protects his sheep, God also protects us.

PRAYER

The Lord is my shepherd;
There is nothing I will need.
In green pastures you let me graze;

To safe waters you lead me;
you restore my strength.

You guide me along the right path,
for the sake of your name.

Even when I walk through a dark valley,
I fear no harm for you are at my side;
Your rod and your staff give me courage.
You set a table before me.

You will anoint my head with oil.
My cup overflows.
Only goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life;
I will dwell in the house of the Lord
for years to come.

- Sign with the children as you pray the following:

Thank you, God our Father, for loving us so much! Please give us wisdom. Please be with us as we learn and live and love today. Amen.

- Extinguish the candle.
- Lead the children from the Sacred Space and invite them to sit with you in the Discovering area.



Discovering

THE LORD IS OUR SHEPHERD

(Inspired from Psalm 23 and John 10:11-16)

Today we will hear a story about Jesus as our good shepherd.

Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd. I know my sheep and they know me. I will lay down my life for the sheep."

Jesus is our Good Shepherd. He takes care of us and watches over us. We are his sheep that Jesus loves so very much.

He makes sure we have all that we need. He helps us make good decisions, and helps us choose the right paths. Even though scary things might happen, he is always with us and comforts us. If we worship God in Church, goodness and mercy will follow us all our lives.

Note: Visit Allelu.com for an alternate way to present the Discovering story.



SING OR PLAY "JESUS, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD"

(**ALLELU! K MUSIC CD, TRACK 10**)



Exploring

INTRODUCING THE ACTIVITIES

- While the children are still seated, go around the room and introduce today's activity choices.

1. Child/Family Activity Sheet: Follow the Shepherd



- Direct the children to look at the drawing in the main activity of the Activity Sheet. Invite them to describe what they see.



- Explain the activity to the children and have them complete it.

2. Pin the Wool on the Sheep Game



- Have the children form a line. The first child in line is blindfolded and turned around one time gently by the leader.
- Hand the child a cotton ball with the glue/paste/velcro-side out.

- Tell the child to hold his or her arm out and press the cotton ball onto the sheep when he or she finds the cutout (let the other children help guide the blindfolded child).



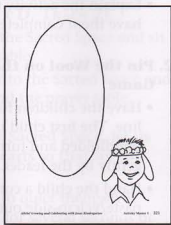
- Help each child as he or she reaches the sheep cutout.

3. Sheep and Shepherds (Dramatic Play)

- Children can take turns being sheep or shepherds.
- Invite the children to take the precut sheep ears from Activity Master 5 and glue cotton balls on them to give the ears a fluffy coat.
- Measure the child's head with the headband. Tape the headband.
- Once the glue is dried, help the children tape the ears to the headband to make a sheep hat.
- Provide other props so that the "shepherds" can tend to their "sheep."



Special Needs



Helpful Hint

Use tape instead of staples to construct the headband. Staples tend to catch and pull hair.

Refer to page 88 and Allelu.com for additional activity choices.

- Prepare the children to transition to the next segment by informing them when there are just 5 minutes remaining.



Sending

SING OR PLAY "THE SENDING SONG" (ALLELU! K MUSIC CD, TRACK 3)

- Lead the children into the Sacred Space and sit with them around the prayer table.
- Light the candle.

DISCUSSION

What a wonderful time we had today. Today in our Sacred Space, we prayed a psalm. I will pray part of it again, and you repeat the words after me.

PRAYER

Let us pray.
+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Lord is my shepherd; (Children repeat.)
There is nothing I will need. (Children repeat.)
In green pastures (Children repeat.)
you let me graze; (Children repeat.)
To safe waters you lead me; (Children repeat.)
Amen.

- Make the Sign of the Cross together or bless each child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead.
- Extinguish the candle.

Lesson 6 Extension

Child/Family Activity Sheet

- If you have not done so already, distribute the Child/Family Activity Sheet for this lesson.
- If there is time, you may wish to review the "Ask Me!" questions with the children.
- Remind the children to share the Activity Sheet with their families.



When Juan Diego went to the bishop's office, people laughed at him. The bishop still did not believe him. The Lady appeared again: Juan Diego went back to the bishop, who still did not quite believe him.

Then the Lady gave Juan Diego a sign for the bishop: roses growing in the winter. He carried the precious roses in his cape, or tilma. At the bishop's place, Juan Diego opened it, letting the roses tumble out. Everyone was shocked, but not at the

Choose one or more of the following:

1. Read a story and discuss it.
2. My Saints Look Project
3. Communion of Saints Mural Project

Little Lamb

2. My Saints Look Project
3. Communion of Saints Mural Project

Little Lamb

- Show children the sample that...
- Before the lesson, prepare a sample lamb...

Lesson 6 Extension Materials

(USE FOR MULTIDAY PROGRAMS OR AS ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES)



Lesson Extension 1

THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS

Saint Juan Diego

Choose one or more of the following:

1. Read-Aloud Story and Discussion

- ☐ picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe



2. My Saints Book Project

- ☐ project material list as found on page 22

3. Communion of Saints Mural Project

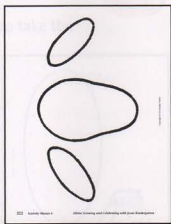
- ☐ project material list as found on page 22



Lesson Extension 2

Little Lamb

- ☐ craft sticks (one per child)
- ☐ Activity Master 6
- ☐ black construction paper (for ears)
- ☐ card stock (for cutouts of lamb face) (1 per child)
- ☐ stick-on googly eyes (2 per child)
- ☐ crayons or markers



Before the lesson, prepare a sample lamb face. Next, cut out one sheep face per child. Also cut two black ears from black construction paper for each child. Place the craft items on an activity table.



Lesson Extension 3

PRAYER TIME

- ☐ "Prayer Time Song"
(*Allelu!* K music CD, track 4)
- ☐ CD player



MUSIC/RESOURCE SUGGESTIONS

- ☐ "Jesus, the Light of the World"
(*Allelu!* K music CD, track 10)



"My Shepherd"

Move! Pray! Celebrate! CD & DVD
Our Sunday Visitor Curriculum Division



My Catholic ABC Book

(words: Bethlehem, Jesus, Light of the World, obey, prayer)

Our Sunday Visitor Curriculum Division
(You can also connect to the interactive *My Catholic ABC Book* at www.calltofaiththeconnect.com.)



"In Your Arms"

Catholic Prayer Book for Children (page 18)
Our Sunday Visitor

Lesson 6 Extensions

(USE FOR MULTIDAY PROGRAMS OR AS ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES)



Lesson Extension 1

THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS Saint Juan Diego

1. Read-Aloud Story and Discussion



Note: Show children images of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which can be found in many books, on holy cards, and on the Internet. Explain that this is how Mary looked when she appeared to Juan Diego.

A Holy Man

Long ago on a winter morning in Mexico, a man was walking miles to go to Mass. He was old and very poor, but all who knew him said he was a good and kind person.

"Juan Diego!" a voice called suddenly. A beautiful Lady appeared! Bright light shone all around her! She said, "I am the Mother of God." Juan Diego was so surprised! She then said, "Tell the bishop to build a church here."

When Juan Diego went to the bishop's office, people laughed at him. The bishop did not believe him. The Lady appeared again; Juan Diego went back to the bishop, who still did not quite believe him.

Then the Lady gave Juan Diego a sign for the bishop: roses growing in the winter! He carried the precious roses in his cape, or tilma. At the bishop's place, Juan Diego opened it, letting the roses tumble out. Everyone was shocked, but not at the

flowers. They were staring at the tilma, for on it now was a colorful image of the Lady just as Juan Diego had seen her!

Now everyone believed Juan Diego! A church was built, where the miraculous tilma was placed.

A small room was attached to the church for Juan Diego. There he lived by himself, praying and taking care of the church and the tilma. People came to see the tilma, and the very, very old Juan Diego spoke to them about God's love.

They called him a "holy man," and asked him to pray for them.

Discussion Question

- In Mexico there is a custom of saying to babies, "May God be as good to you as he was to Juan Diego." Ask the children what they think that may mean (*example: God will protect and bless me*).

2. My Saints Book Project

(See page 22.)

3. Communion of Saints Mural Project

(See page 22.)



Lesson Extension 2

Little Lamb

- Show children the sample that you made before the lesson.
- Help the children glue the precut ears to the lamb's face.
- Show them how to draw a nose and mouth on the face.



- Let the children dab cotton balls in the glue/paste to cover the lamb's face.
- Help the children peel and attach the googly eyes onto the lamb's face.



Lesson Extension 3

PRAYER TIME

(Lead Prayer Time in church, if possible.)



When we visit Jesus' house, the church, we are in a holy place to pray and sing.

The church is a special place where Jesus invites us to be with him. We do not see him, but we know that he is present. So let us prepare our hearts, hands, and voices to thank and praise him.



SING OR PLAY THE "PRAYER TIME SONG"
(**ALLELU! K MUSIC CD, TRACK 4**)

DISCUSSION

Today we learned that Jesus is the Good Shepherd. If he is the Good Shepherd, then who are his sheep? *(Allow children time to answer that every one of them are his sheep.)*

What does a shepherd do for his/her sheep?
(*feed, watch, protect, lead, water*)

What does Jesus, the Good Shepherd, do for each of you, his sheep? *(He gives us parents, caretakers, teachers, food, water, toys, a home, clothes...)*

Let's thank the Good Shepherd for watching over us and leading us on the right paths.

PRAYER

Let us pray.

Dear Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd. I know that when I wake, and when I sleep, when I play, and when I work, you are always watching me. Thank you for guarding me from danger and leading me to happiness.

All: Amen.

- End by praying the Sign of the Cross.