READ IT

This week's Bible story is

Sheep and Goats

from Matthew 25:31-46.

Pentecost

We can show our love for Jesus by loving Jesus' friends. Jesus' friends include the hurting people in our world.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Sheep
- Goats
- Care
- Hungry
- Welcome

The Gospel of Matthew includes this story because it shows us clearly who Jesus is. Jesus served "the least of these" during his time on earth.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 318-319

Spark Bible pages 1087-1088

Family Prayer

God of all, Teach us about all the people you love. Help us not to be afraid of people who seem different from us. Help us to see Jesus' face in the faces of people who need smiles and helping hands. Help us learn to give help, and ask for help. Amen.

TALK ABOUT IT

Family Conversations

1. Sheep liked to obey the shepherd and stick with the other sheep. What are some ways that you obey your parents? Your teachers?

2. Goats didn't like to follow a shepherd—they tended to run away on their own and get lost. How does independence work for and against us? For and against the community of God's people?

3. Why would Jesus choose to hang around people who messed up and needed help? How has Jesus' love changed us?

4. If we followed Jesus, where would he lead us? Give each family member a footprint cut out of paper to use as they imagine and demonstrate their answer to this question.

Eye Spark

Place an empty bowl in the refrigerator to remind one another that there are hungry people who need our love and offerings.

Ear Spark

Practice standing in a circle making sheep sounds (baaaaaaaaaaas) and goat sounds (maaaaaaaaaaaaas). Place a blindfolded shepherd in the middle of the circle, and challenge them to separate the sheep from the goats.

Lectionary, Sheep and Goats Family Page. Spark: Activate Faith.
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LIVE IT

For families to do together

Call your church office to ask about a church family or shut-in who could use a meal. People with new babies love to get a meal! Prepare and deliver the meal together.

For younger kids

Jesus wants us to follow his example. Play a game of Follow the Leader and pretend you're following Jesus. Where does Jesus go?

For older kids

Use an online search engine to learn more about your national church and how people just like you are working with God's people around the globe. Use Google Earth to zoom in on some of the countries where missionaries serve "the least of these."

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