



Faith Together at Home

Jesus, the Good Shepherd

Explore
the Bible

Gather Together

Gather around an open Bible and share highs and lows from the day. Bring out a large sheet of paper, colored pencils, crayons, and markers. Sit together around the paper and read aloud Psalm 23 slowly and with expression. As you read, invite everyone to draw pictures and symbols that express the psalm (shepherd, green grass, stream, table laden with food, etc.). Display your Psalm 23 poster in a prominent place. Encourage everyone to say a brief prayer of thanks to Jesus, our Good Shepherd, each time they see the poster today.

Discover Together

In John 10:11-15, Jesus describes himself as the good shepherd who lays down his life in order to protect and save his sheep. Read the passage together and then assign parts and act it out. Next, turn to Luke 15:3-6 and read aloud Jesus' Parable of the Lost Sheep. Invite family members to act out the story.

Jesus often told stories called parables to help people understand how much God loves them. Like the shepherd in these stories, Jesus never stops caring for us or looking for us when we are lost.

Talk Together

Ask these questions of each other:

- What is your favorite story about Jesus? Why do you like it best?
- Tell about a time you felt lost. How can faith in Jesus help us through such times?
- How can we help other people when they are feeling lost?

Play Together

Gather your family together for a game. Select one person to be the shepherd. Have this person cover their eyes. Everyone else will be the sheep. Secretly choose one of the sheep to "baa" for the shepherd. Encourage this person to disguise their voice. Let the shepherd guess who the sheep is. If correct, the sheep becomes the shepherd for the next round. If not, the shepherd tries again with a new sheep. Play until everyone has an opportunity to be the shepherd.

Serve Together

Good shepherds lead their sheep to green pastures, making sure they receive adequate nourishment. As a family, help nourish others at a soup kitchen, food shelf, or other organization. Ask your church for a list of organizations it supports through monetary gifts or providing volunteers. Continue to remember the people served by this organization in your prayers throughout the week.

Family Prayer

Say this prayer or blessing at the close of your time: **Jesus, our Good Shepherd, thank you for leading us each day. Amen.**