

The Good Shepherd

Focus

Nothing happens to us that God does not know about. He sees everything and He watches over us.

Today's Tip

Pray for your students this week. Ask God to keep their hearts tender and open to Him.

Supplies Needed:

- Leaves made out of construction paper
- String/tape or stapler
- Sticks for each student
- Sheep pattern/Cotton balls
- Markers or crayons
- Blindfold/Poster board
- Optional: Real leaves



Welcome and Singing

- Welcome guests & take attendance.
- Make announcements.
- Sing songs relating to story topic.
- Take prayer requests and pray.



Opening Activity

Using the sheep pattern, draw a sheep on the chalkboard or poster board. Blind-fold a student and have them "pin" the cotton balls with tape to the tail on the sheep.



Intro to the Story

Read the memory verse aloud. Ask students if anything has happened to them that they thought was bad. Give them a moment to think of some things. You could share of something bad that has happened to you.

The Story/The Passage

Who is the good shepherd? Jesus! He is talking about himself in your verse today. Since Jesus is the good shepherd, does that mean only good things will happen to us? No, sometimes things will happen that we will not like. It doesn't seem fair that Jesus, who did only good for us, suffered and died on the cross. **Jesus' suffering paid for our salvation and set us free from the power of sin.**

Isaiah 53:10 says, "Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him." Why? Because it would make the only way for you and for me to be a part of God's family. It pleases God that we become a part of His family.

Genesis 37-50 tells us the story of Joseph. His brothers treated him very badly. The Bible says they hated him and even talked of killing him. They sold him to traders, who then sold him to be a slave in Egypt. During that time, he was falsely accused and thrown into prison for about ten years. The day came when Joseph was set free and placed second in command of the nation of Egypt. Now, that was a God thing!

Joseph is a good example of how God can use bad things in our lives for our good. Joseph told his brothers, "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive" (**Genesis 50:20**). Another verse in Romans says that **God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love Him, and are called according to His purpose for them.** Isn't it reassuring that God is watching over us, even when bad things happen?



Discussion Questions

Before going on to the verse, this might be a good time to discuss those bad things that students mentioned earlier. Ask them if God turned any of those things into good for them?

Reassure them that we don't always know how something bad in our life can turn out to be good for us, but God promises us He is with us and that all things work for our good. Spend some time praying for each other.



Memory Verse

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.
- John 10:11 & 14

Lesson Activity

Try to fill in the blanks below from memory. When you are finished, use your Bible to check your work.
(John 10:9 & 11)

I am the door .

If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will
go in and out and find pasture .

I am the good shepherd.

The good shepherd lays down His life for the
sheep .

Craft - Leaf Mobile

BEFORE CLASS: Pre-cut the leaves.

Have students write on each leaf some things they are glad that Christ has done for them or things they are thankful for.

Attach string to the leaves and then to the sticks. (Each student should have their own stick or sticks.)

Hang the mobiles from the ceiling in your class room or have students take them home.



