

Hello Families from St. Thomas

May 3, 2020

I'd like to welcome all new families to God's Garden. I will continue to send these weekly activities to all the email addresses that I have, but you may now also find this included on St. Thomas Stittsville web site. Please let me know your email address if you are new and would like your children to register in our free children's program at St. Thomas called God's Garden. godsgardenstt@gmail.com,

Today we are reading and remembering the story of the Good Shepherd. The bible often uses sheep as an analogy of responsibility, togetherness and caring for one another. David was a shepherd when he was a young boy and God choose him to become King of Israel. Our children are learning how to become good shepherds every day as are we now learning to become good shepherds of the whole earth. Jesus has been described as both a sheep (ie. The lamb of God) and a shepherd (The Good Shepherd.) If the shepherd takes good care of their sheep then the sheep will know his voice and follow him anywhere. I hope that in today's story you will hear the voice of our Good Shepherd and know that he will never leave you.

Since we are not meeting for our God's Garden classes, I will be sending you some ideas for the lesson of the week, including the Children's Story, which you can do at home. Perhaps you can choose one activity per day or more than one if you have the energy and time. You don't need to do them all, just choose the activities that intrigue you and adapt them to suit your circumstances.

Here are the week's suggestions for activities for this coming Sunday.

I encourage you to read the following Children's Story as well as John 10 verses 1-18 before you engage in the activities.

Above all enjoy your children and their responses and have fun with Jesus.

Blessings to all. Merilee Clarke 613-831-7704

The Good Shepherd's Voice



Theme: We know Jesus' voice and know that He will bring us safely home.

Object:

Printed picture of Buzz Lightyear, Olaf, Dory, Cookie Monster, Mary Poppins, and Jesus

Scripture: John 10:4

Today I am going to quote some popular phrases from some pretty famous characters and one real person. After I say the phrase, you have to do one thing to show me you know the answer. No, it's not to raise your hand. When you think you know the answer, I need you to "Baa" like a sheep. Are you ready?

Go through each of the five phrases and allow kids chances to "Baa" and guess the answer. After they guess, show them the picture that goes with each phrase.

- "To infinity and beyond." - Buzz Lightyear
- "Some people are worth melting for." - Olaf
- "Just keep swimming." - Dory
- "Me want cookie." - Cookie Monster
- "In every job that must be done, there is an element of fun." - Mary Poppins

Was it easy or hard to guess who said each of these things? How could you be certain of who said each phrase?

You had to be pretty familiar with the movie and character to match their saying with the person saying it. If you had never seen the movie "Finding Nemo" you may not know that Dory says "Just keep swimming." But if you have seen Frozen like 100 times, you could guess Olaf really easily. The more you know the movie and character, the better you know their voice. I have one more voice for you to guess.

"Love each other as I have loved you." Who do you think said that? "Baa" when you want to guess.

Show children the picture of Jesus after they've guessed.

Jesus is not a cartoon character; He is God's son who is like the Good Shepherd who takes care of us. Jesus says that His sheep know His voice and follow Him. What are some of the things Jesus tells us to do?

Dear God, thank You that You help us hear and know Jesus' voice. We want to follow You today and always. In Jesus' name, amen.

Shepherds Voice Group Activities

Interactive Group Activities

by Carol Williams & Charles Kirkpatrick

copyright waived for the Covid19 Season.

Sermon Title: ["The Shepherd's Voice"](#)

Scripture Reading: John 10:1-18

SHEPHERDS VOICE: Have the children sit in a circle. One child will wear a blindfold and will represent the shepherd. The teacher will point to one child at a time to make a baa-baa sound. The "Shepherd" will listen and try to guess what child made the baa-baa sound.

SHEEP KEEPAWAY: The children, pretending to be sheep, will stand in one long line; Another child, representing the Shepherd will stand across the room, and the "wolf" in the middle. The Shepherd will call several children's names (sheep) who will try to run to the shepherd while the "wolf" tries to catch them. Make sure the sheep BaaBaa while running. IF the wolf tags them, the sheep must lay down for a little sheep nap until the Shepherd rescues them.

SHEEP SKIT: The children can play out today's story outside in the green grass/pasture, with a water basin and a shelter that the children can help to "build" out of sheets/blankets hanging over a small table. Let the children take turns being a sheep, a wolf, a shepherd, etc as time allows.

SHEEP CALLING: During today's lesson, the teacher/Shepherd will call a child's name, such as SHEEP SUZY.. and that "sheep" will Baa Baa as loudly as possible. Continue with the lesson and call out each child's name at different times. Another option is to tell the children to BAA BAA whenever they hear the word SHEEP in today's lesson.

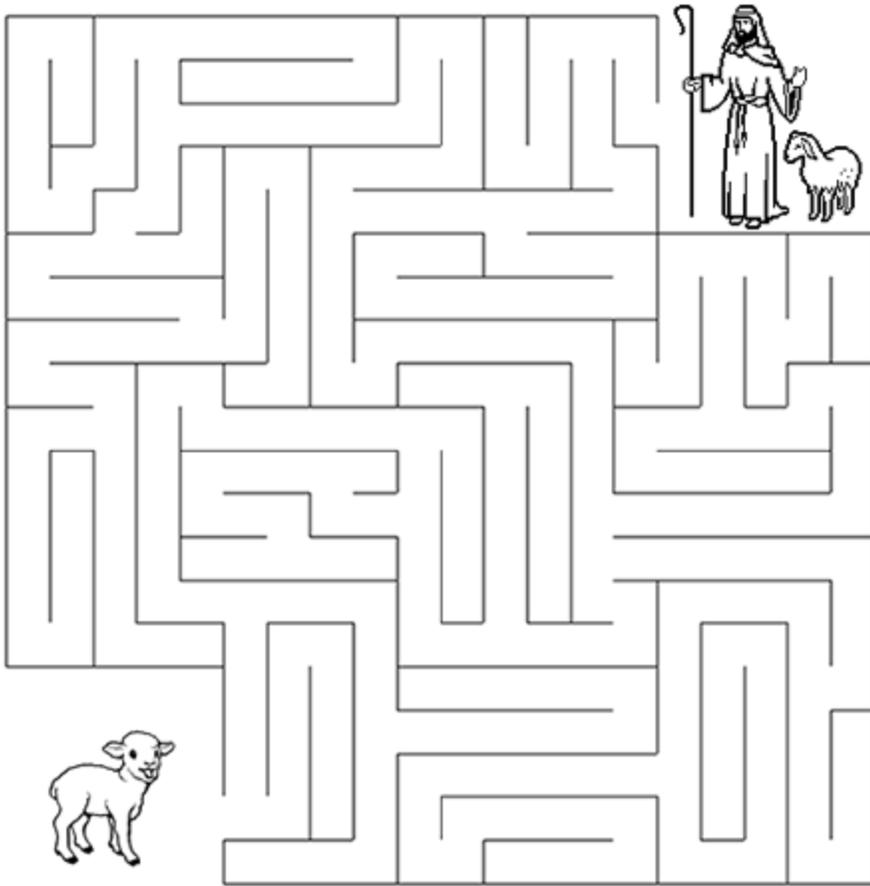
BIBLE VERSE SHEEP: Have sheep cut outs placed around a designated area for the children to find after class has begun. Each sheep will have one or more words on the cut outs for the children to find and then place in the correct order to recite the Bible verse words today.

COTTON SHEEP: If the class is small, the teacher can have one very large poster board sheep on the floor, or two large poster board sheep, if the class is larger. As children come into the classroom, they can be encouraged to glue on cotton balls to make a SHEEP for today's lesson! You could make a greeting card with the cotton ball sheep on the front and a message of hope inside for a friend.

SHARE A SNACK: Each child will be given a couple of marshmallows to hook together with candy stick or a toothpick to represent a sheep! These could be dipped in frosting or chocolate syrup!

The Shepherd
Coloring Page





When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.
John 10:4 (NIV)