

Virtual Sunday School Lesson

The Good Shepherd (Matt. | John)



Bible Verses (NIV):

Matthew 18: 1-4, 10-14

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.'

'Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven. What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.'

John 10: 1-18

'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.'

'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes* it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

Activity: Jesus, My Shepherd

Theme: Dramatically demonstrate the role of a good shepherd and then explain how Jesus loves us and looks after us like a good shepherd.

Supplies: A shepherd's staff (can be home made with a wooden pole, coat hanger and duct tape), an adult volunteer to act as an angry wolf.

Lesson:

(Begin by reading the bible verse)

Good Morning Children.

Do you see what I made here? What do you think it is?

Right. It's a shepherd's staff.

A shepherd is a person who looks after sheep and in many parts of the world they carry a staff like this. OK. You pretend you are sheep and follow me over here.

Do you know what sound sheep make? Right! Make some “bahhhing” as we go.

Like a good shepherd I’ll lead you to some good pasture. This looks like a good spot. Pretend you are eating some grass children. OK.

I’ll continue to lead you on. Sometimes one of the sheep gets lost. *(Lean over and whisper to one of the children to pretend to wander off – you could preplan this but it works fine to do it this way.)*

Oh my. One of the sheep has wandered off and is lost. I’ve got to go find it in order to bring it back to the fold. Sometimes the little sheep get stuck over a ledge. Then the shepherd gets his staff like this and reaches out to it like this and brings it safely back. *(Use the hook end of the staff to pull the child back to the group)*

Continue on. Now children, sometimes the shepherd must protect the sheep from an animal like a wolf. *(Adult volunteer appears, showing their teeth and growling like an angry wolf)*

Whoa! There’s a scary wolf! *(Quickly move between the children and the wolf with your protective staff)*

I won’t run away from my sheep. As a good shepherd I use my staff to protect them. “Take that you nasty wolf, and stay away from my sheep.” *(Adult volunteer runs away)*

That was a little scary but I’m glad I was able to protect you from that wolf. (Lead the children back up to where you can sit down and debrief)

Thanks for helping me with my story children; you were good at pretending to be sheep. The Bible reading today tells us that we are like sheep and Jesus is like a good shepherd. If we follow Jesus, like a good shepherd he will lead us to good pasture – he will feed us and nourish us. Like a good shepherd he will search after us if we are lost and rescue us. He will never run away from us in scary times but will protect us. I’m so thankful that Jesus is a good shepherd who loves us and watches over us.

(At another time you could discuss how he feeds us, protects us, leads us, etc.)

Closing Prayer

Thank you God that Jesus is a good shepherd, who loves us, leads us, feeds us and protects us. Help us always to stay close to him and to follow him. In Jesus’ name. Amen

Thanks to www.sundaychildrenfocus.com

Video: Saddleback Kids: Lost Sheep <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ry2MaMyvGo>

This story is based on Luke 15:1-7 and Matthew 18:12-14.

Duration: 1:59

Video: PursueGod Kids: Parable about Sheep <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2LPWcVpVqyM>

Jesus tells a parable about sheep to show us that we need to follow Jesus.

Duration: 2:52

Craft: The Good Shepherd (Preschool)

Supplies: Crayons/markers, scissors, glue

Directions: Color the background and shepherd. Cut out the shepherd and glue to the background.

Thanks to www.ministry-to-children.com



He Guides Me When...

I am scared!



I am lonely!

I am in need!



I am helpless!





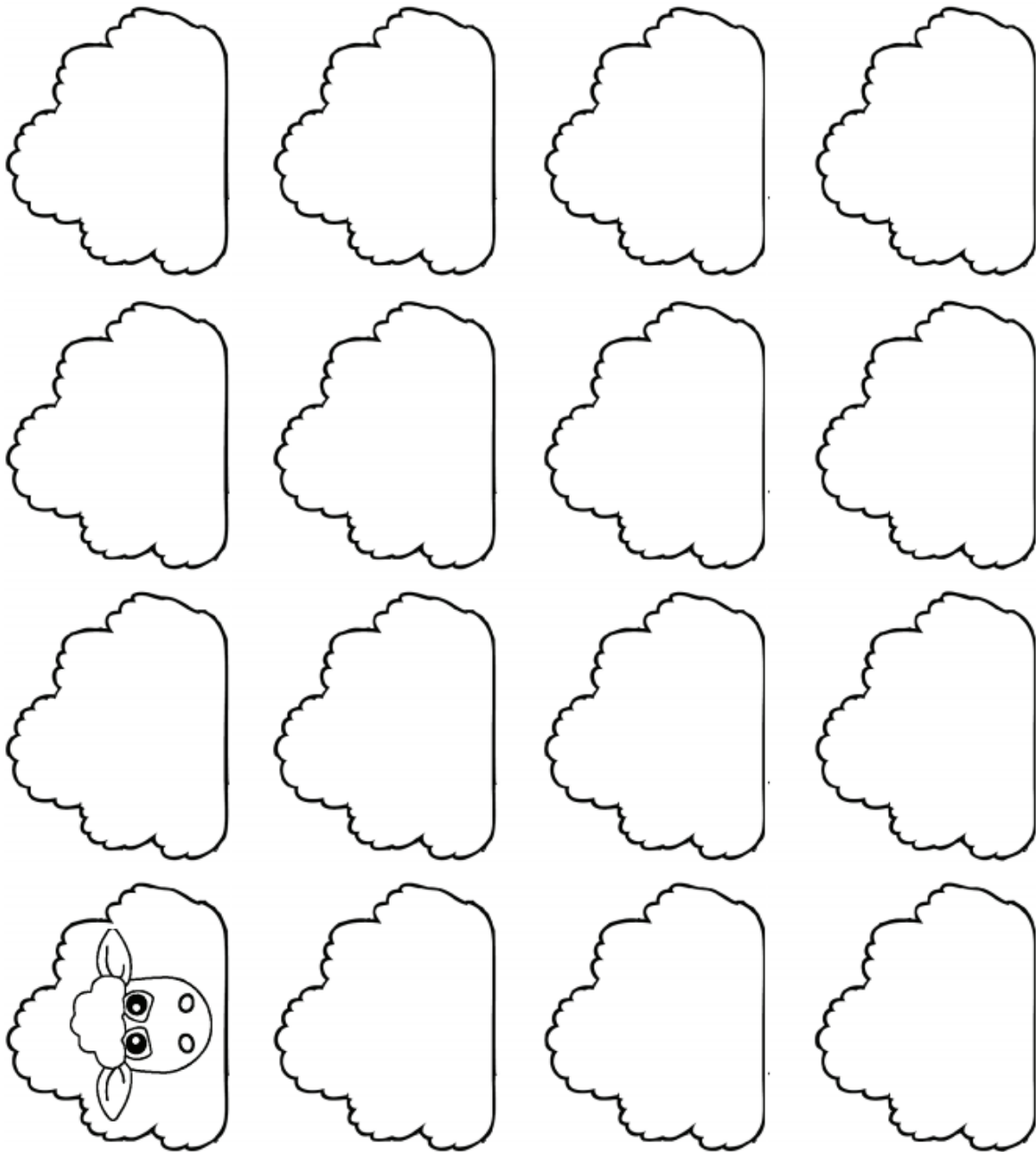
Mandy Groce '11

Craft: Lost Sheep Game

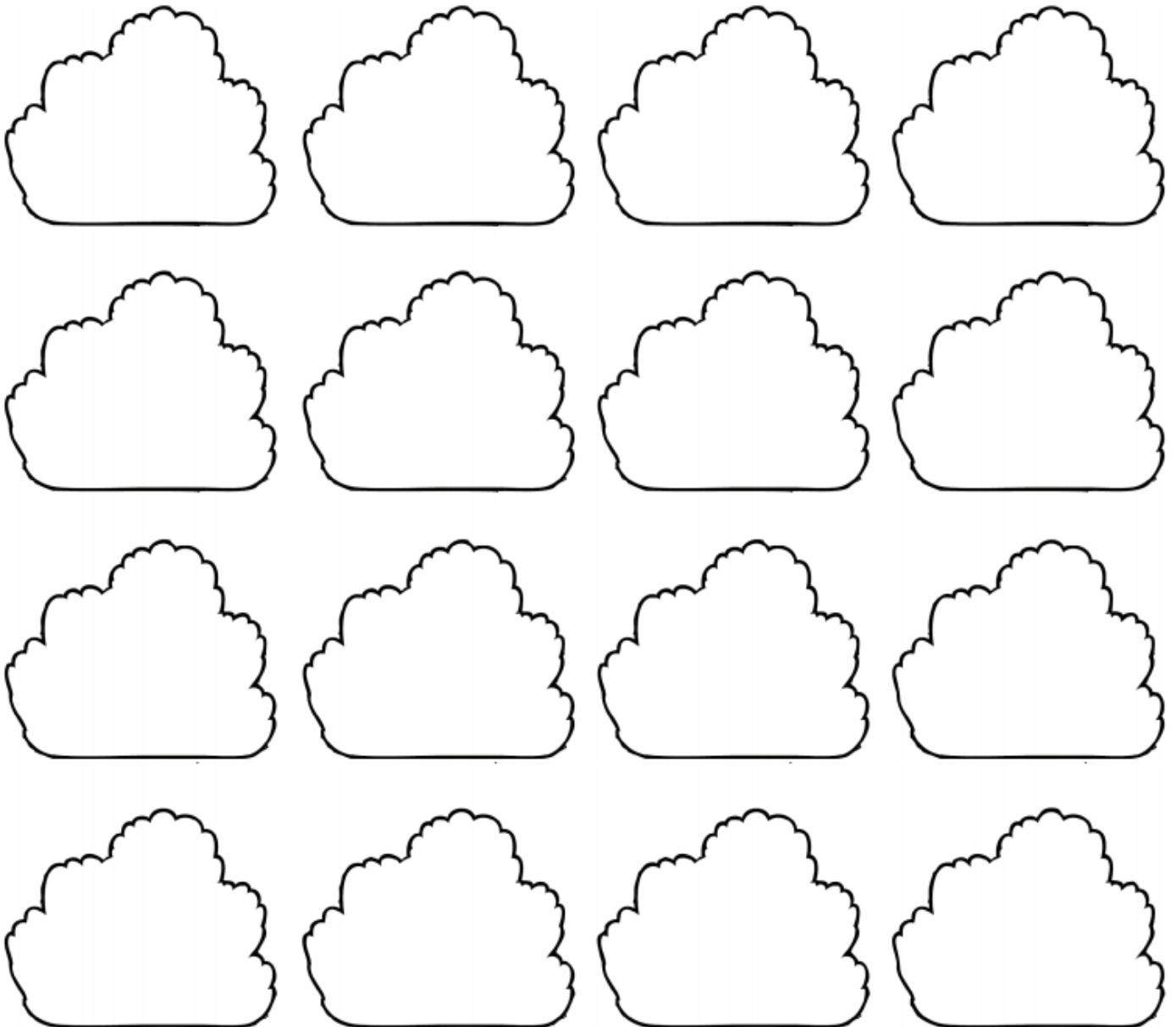
Supplies: Crayons/markers, scissors

Directions: Color the background page with the shepherd/sheep. Color the back of this page, then cut out the bushes. Place the bushes face down on the background. Take turns flipping over each bush and see who can find the bush with the lost sheep.

Thanks to www.craftingthewordofgod.com



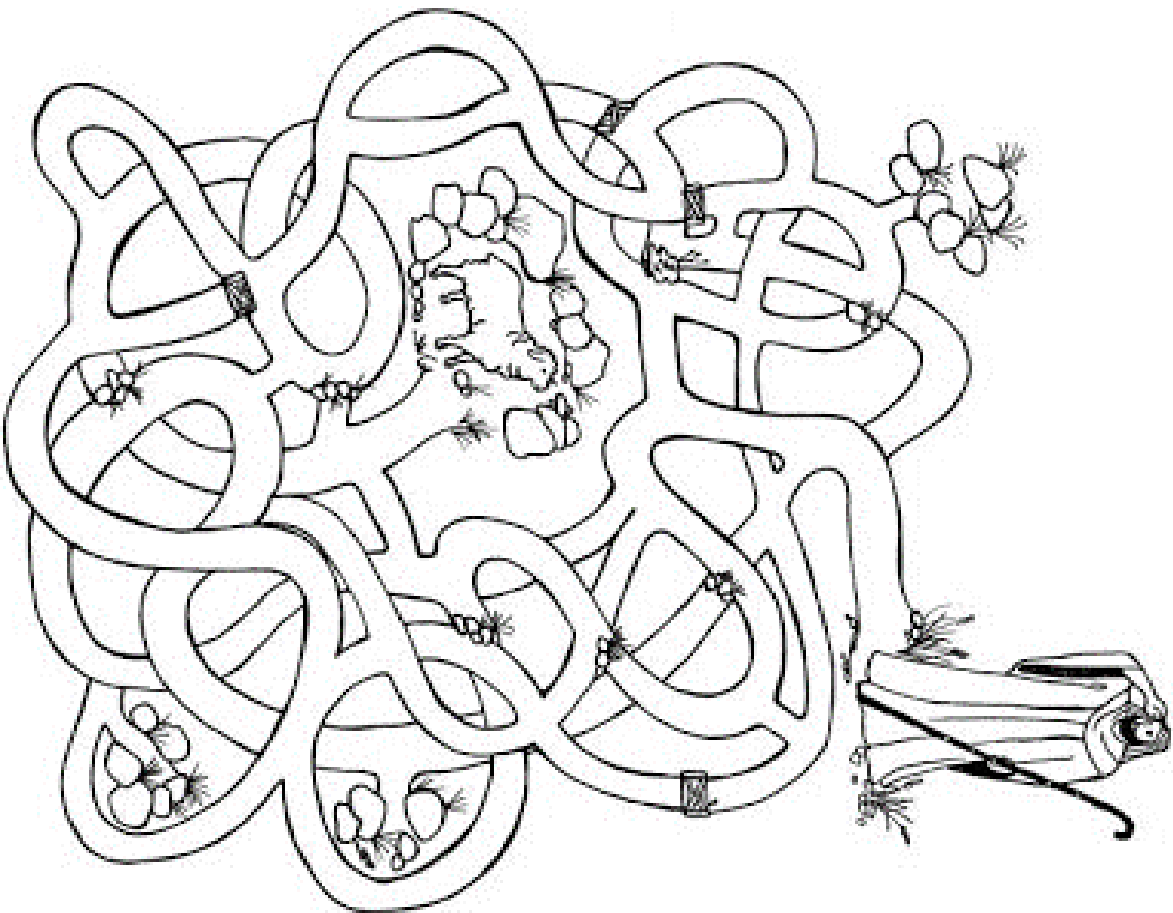
The Parable Of The Lost Sheep



Jesus is the Good Shepherd
that calls us to his side.



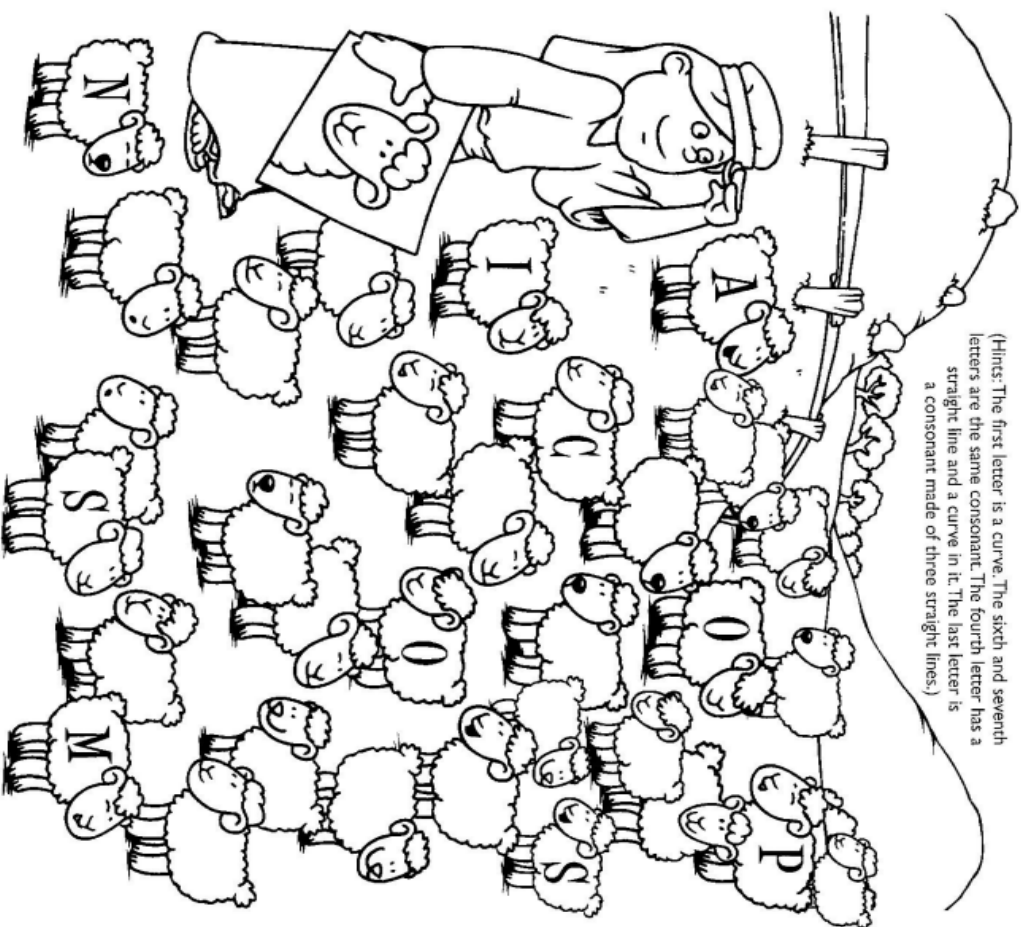
Help the Shepherd find the lost sheep



The Challenge

The shepherd has lost a sheep, and like the Good Shepherd, he will search high and low for it. In the blanks, write the letters you find on the sheep. Read the hints for help. It's a word that tells what God feels for us.

(Hints: The first letter is a curve. The sixth and seventh letters are the same consonant. The fourth letter has a straight line and a curve in it. The last letter is a consonant made of three straight lines.)



The Super Challenge

The shepherd is looking for one specific sheep. It looks just like the one in his picture. Can you find it? When you do, circle it.