

*Nurturing Faith...
Every Day in Every Way*

April 26, 2015

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5-12

Psalms 23 (1)

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18



The Good Shepherd Object: Pictures of dogs, cats, or other pets.

How many of you have a pet? There are many animals that make good pets. The most popular are cats and dogs, but birds and fish are also quite popular. Some children like hamsters or Guinea pigs for a pet. If you live in the country and have a lot of room, you might even own a large animal such as a horse.

If you choose to have a pet, it is a big responsibility. You must be willing to take care of it. You have to feed it and make sure it has plenty of water. You must keep it clean and take it to the veterinarian when it is sick. You have to make sure your pet is kept in a safe place and, if it wanders off and gets lost, you must go and look for it and bring it back home.

As I think about having a pet and taking care of it, I am reminded about something that Jesus said about himself. Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd." A shepherd is a person who takes care of sheep. Sheep can't take care of themselves. They need someone to watch over them and care for them. They need someone to protect them from harm. Jesus said he knows his sheep and his sheep know him. He said that he was even willing to lay down his life for his sheep. Jesus must really love his sheep!

As you might have guessed, Jesus wasn't really talking about sheep. He was talking about you and me. We are his "sheep." He loves us, he takes care of us, he makes sure that we have everything that we need. He was even willing to give his life so that you and I could live with him forever in heaven.

There is no doubt about it. Jesus really loves his sheep!

Dear Jesus, we are thankful to you for being our Good Shepherd. Thank you for loving us and taking care of us. Most of all, we thank you for laying down your life for us so that we can have everlasting life in heaven with you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

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Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. Jesus says, I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me. Alleluia (John 10:14)

Word Search Puzzle

P E P F E L D W S R L G F T T
 T B F L O C K P K M I U W E J
 Q V C Q K N O W F L F R I A Y
 L N B F O O H P J O E Q U T I
 Z G N L Q R I D Q V U C W N S
 A A I G O O D S T E T S A L S
 O S T M S J C N H S S D M L T
 B F G S R C Y Y Z E V R S I K
 D W E O H C A R E S E K H S A
 A O Q J B E O T M V C P C T K
 P L D V E F P Q T A R E T E T
 E F O O D H E H T E P K H N V
 N B G I S C U T E Q R A Y B S
 K G E C G B A O T R L S C V V
 U M R E Q O A T H D D D K X W

LISTEN	SHEEP	LOVES	WOLF	FLOCK
ATTACKS	CARES	PEN	GOOD	RUNS
SCATTERS	VOICE	SHEPHERD	LIFE	KNOW

COTTON SHEEP: Let the children trace a picture of a small sheep, cut it out, and glue cotton balls on it. Then the teacher will let the children place their sheep on a poster board with a drawing of a sheep pen. The children will then find words written on cards to the Bible verse (John 10:11 or John 10:14) around the room and place them in the correct order on the poster board.

YARN SHEEP: Let each child cut out a black sheep from card stock. Then, beginning at the neck of the sheep to the tail of the sheep, wrap thick white yarn around the sheep and tuck the end of the yarn into the body of the yarn/sheep. Add wiggly craft eyes if desired.

SHEEP MASK: Give each child a white paper plate with the center cut out. Have the children cut out ears from construction paper and glue them to the edge of the plate. They will then glue pieces of cotton all around the edge of the plate. The children will then hold the plate up to their face allowing their face to show through. Explain to the children that Jesus is the Good Shepherd and we are his sheep!

**“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”
John 10:11**



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