

Q10

LIFE OF JESUS

## The Good Shepherd

[PursueGOD.org](http://PursueGOD.org)

## Lesson Overview

Today, we're going to talk about another parable. A parable is just a fancy word for a story. Jesus used parables to teach people important lessons. In this parable, Jesus wanted to teach the people that we are like sheep. He doesn't mean that we look like sheep but that we act like sheep. Sheep are followers and they depend on a shepherd to lead them to safety. This is true for us, too. We will have people in our lives that want to lead us down the wrong path. This path leads to danger. But, Jesus came to lead us toward safety. He came to die for our sins to save us and he wants to lead us toward the life he has planned for us. So, we need to listen to Jesus, not those friends who are looking for trouble. So, kids, remember that Jesus is our good shepherd who takes care of us. Don't be like a sheep who listens to the wrong voices. Follow and obey Jesus and you'll have a safe and happy life.

### Classroom Agenda

1. (5 min) **PLAY: Let kids start working on Activity Page #1.**
2. (5 min) **WARM UP: What animal do you think is the strongest? Explain. What animal do you think is the weakest? Explain.** (Tip: Some animals are strong and fast like a tiger or a bear. And, some animals aren't so tough like a bunny. Find out why we are more like sheep.)
3. (5 min) **PREVIEW: Write out the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question on a whiteboard.** Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1 (if applicable).
4. (20 min) **LARGE GROUP: Gather for songs and videos with other kids.** Then return to class to finish this guide.
5. (2 min) **RECAP: Read the Lesson Overview (see above).**
6. (3 min) **KQ: Answer the Key Question.** (Answer: **Jesus died for our sins so that we could have a new life.** (This is how much Jesus loves us. He died to save us. He went to the cross to pay for our sin problem so that we could have a relationship with him. And, the Bible says that when we put our trust in Jesus, we become like new people. Instead of having hearts that want to do things our own way, we want to do things God's way. And God's way is always the best way. His way keeps us safe and out of trouble.)
  - **Bonus Questions:** Why did Jesus die for us? Why is sin a problem for us? **4th-5th** Have you put your trust in Jesus? How has Jesus changed you?
7. (5 min) **EXPLORE: Read Deuteronomy 31:6. Identify everything this verse tells us to do. What does this verse say that God does?** (Answer: We should be strong and courageous and we shouldn't be afraid. The reason- because we have God on our side. He will never fail us and he will always be with us. So, when you're faced with something hard, don't be afraid. Be strong and courageous and know that God is right there to help you!)
8. (10 min) **PLAY: Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.**
9. (5 min) **CLOSE: Share prayer requests and pray as a class.** Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents - and remind them to go online to [pursueGOD.org/kids](http://pursueGOD.org/kids) to find this week's lesson video.

### Big Idea

*Everyone who follows Jesus gets to have real life.*

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### Key Question

*What did Jesus do for us?*

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### Memory Verse

*John 10:10 "The thief's purpose is to kill and steal, and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life."*

**Teacher instructions:** Choose an activity for your classroom.

## OPTION 1: LEAD YOUR SHEEP COTTON BALL RACE

### **Instructions:**

- Before starting the game, give each kid a straw and tape a square at one end of the table to be like a safe pasture.
- Choose two kids to start. Have them stand on opposite sides of the table at one end. When you say, "Go!" have them race to push their cotton ball down the table blowing through their straw to move it. First to get their cotton ball (sheep) into the pasture (into the square) first, wins.
- Continue having two kids go up against each other. If you have time, have the winners of each race compete against each other to see if you can find the ultimate winner!

**Supplies needed:** Straws (1 per kid), Tape, Cotton Balls

## OPTION 2: JESUS TAKES CARE OF HIS SHEEP PUPPET

### **Instructions:**

- Give each kid a small paper plate, a pile of cotton balls and a craft stick.
- Have kids cover the plate by gluing on the cotton balls.
- Then give each kid a Sheep template (page 5) and have them color the face grey or black. Then give them two eyes to glue onto the face.
- Have kids glue the face onto the middle of the plate. Have them glue the craft stick on to the back of the plate so they can move it around like a puppet.

**Supplies needed:** Small paper plates, Cotton balls (several bags), Craft sticks (1 per kid), Glue, Sheep template (page 5, pre cut, 1 per kid), Crayons, Eyes (1 set per kid)

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## Memory Verse

**John 10:10** The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

This parable starts out with Jesus telling the people that shepherds enter the pasture through the gate, but thieves climb over the fence. The sheep will recognize their shepherd's voice and follow them. They won't follow a thief's voice because they won't recognize it. Instead, they will run away. The people listening to this story were confused. So, he told it in a little bit of a different way.

Jesus said that he is the gate for the sheep. Those who go through him will be saved and be able to run around in good pastures. But, the sheep had to watch out for thieves and robbers who wanted to lead them toward danger. They want to hurt the sheep, but his purpose is to help the sheep.

Then he said that he is also the shepherd. In order to keep the sheep safe, Jesus was willing to give up his life for his sheep. He would face any danger to keep his sheep safe. He also says that he has other sheep that aren't in his flock yet, but they will be some day.

**People Are Like \_\_\_\_\_ Who Need a \_\_\_\_\_**

**Jesus is a \_\_\_\_\_ Shepherd Because He \_\_\_\_\_ for His Sheep**

Just like Jesus said in the parable, he is willing to die for his sheep. And he did exactly that. He died on the cross for us to keep us safe from sin. And one day we get to go to heaven to be with him!

**Everyone Who Follows Jesus Gets to Have \_\_\_\_\_ Life**

Jesus keeps us safe so that we can run around in safe pastures!

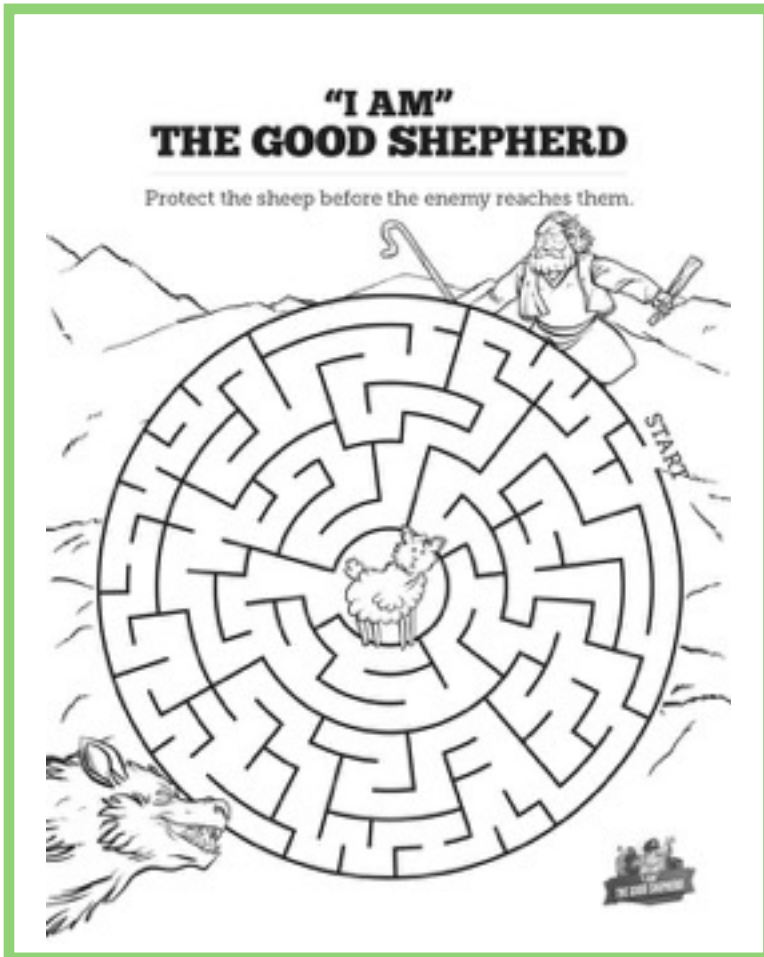
**John 10:10** The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

Answers: Sheep, Shepherd, Good, Died, Real **Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions:**

1. Why do sheep need shepherds?
2. Who is our shepherd? How has Jesus protected you?
3. Read *Deuteronomy 31:6*. Identify everything this verse tells us to do. What does this verse say that God does?
4. How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?

**Instructions:** Solve the puzzle and color the picture.



**Big Idea**

**Key Question**

**Memory Verse**

John 10:\_\_\_ "The \_\_\_\_\_  
purpose is to \_\_\_\_\_ and  
steal, and destroy. My  
\_\_\_\_\_ is to give them  
a rich and satisfying \_\_\_\_\_."

