



# **Jesus Is the Good Shepherd**

**John 10:1-16**

**WEEK 8**

**POINT ➡ WE ASK  
JESUS TO HELP US.**

Open your Bible to John 10, and show children the words. SAY: **The Bible is God's special book that tells how God takes care of people. It tells us about Jesus, our good shepherd. A shepherd takes care of sheep. He leads them to food and water, protects them, and gets them home safely at night. Jesus said that he's like a shepherd and that we're his sheep. Let's all pretend to be sheep right now.**

Have children pretend to be sheep. Arrange chairs around them to be a pen. SAY: **Jesus said that if someone tries to climb over the fence instead of coming in through the gate, that person isn't the shepherd. He's trying to hurt the sheep.** Point to one corner of the pen. SAY: **Look! Someone's trying to climb over the fence. Move away from him.** Have children do so. **Jesus protects you the way a shepherd protects sheep.**

Pretend to open the gate. Lead the children out of the pen and around the room, walking in funny ways. **Sheep follow the shepherd when he calls. Pretend I'm your shepherd, and follow me. Jesus leads us, too, and we can follow him the way sheep follow the shepherd. Jesus says he calls us by name.** Lead the children back into the pen, calling them by name. Pretend to close the gate.

ASK: **Shepherds lead sheep. What does Jesus do to lead you?**

**What does Jesus do to take care of you?**

SAY: **The Bible says, "The LORD is my helper, so I will have no fear" (Hebrews 13:6). Jesus, the good shepherd, wants to be our helper. That's why ➡ WE ASK JESUS TO HELP US.**







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Give each child one of the *Wikki Stix*. Help each child bend the stick into a rough shape of a sheep. Keep it simple: a circle or oval will do. Then help kids work together to create a pen or fence with the remaining *Wikki Stix*. You'll want to have one part of the fence that can swing open like a gate.

Play ● "The Shepherd Takes His Sheep" (track 4) on the *CD*. As the song plays, guide the children in using the figures to show what Jesus said about how shepherds take care of sheep and how he is our good shepherd. Kids can open the gate for the sheep, lead the sheep around the pen the way a shepherd would, protect the sheep from danger, and lead the sheep safely back into the pen. Talk with children about what Jesus said while they play.

**ASK: Why do sheep need to follow the shepherd and stay close to him?**

What could happen if a sheep didn't follow the shepherd?

What can we do to be like sheep and follow Jesus, our good shepherd?

**SAY: When we ask Jesus to help us and we do what he says, it's like being his sheep and following him through the gate where he can care for us. ➡ WE ASK JESUS TO HELP US because he's our shepherd.**





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## POINT ➡ WE ASK JESUS TO HELP US.

**SAY:** You probably don't know any shepherds. There aren't a lot in our country today. But you might know a farmer who takes care of animals. And I bet you know someone who has a pet!

**ASK:** Tell about a pet you have or would like to have.

What do people do to take care of pets?

What do pets do to show love to their owners?

How are pet owners like shepherds?

How does Jesus take care of us the way people take care of pets?

**SAY:** We take good care of our pets. We feed them, love them, and keep them safe. ➡ **WE ASK JESUS TO HELP US,** because he wants to take care of us.



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## POINT ➡ WE ASK JESUS TO HELP US.

**SAY:** We read in the Bible today about Jesus, the good shepherd. Jesus takes care of people the way a shepherd takes care of sheep.

**ASK:** Tell about a time you saw a sheep, maybe on a farm, at a petting zoo, on TV, or in a book. Encourage kids to talk about sheep, what they look like, what they do, and experiences the kids have had with them.

**What are some things that sheep need?** Use one of the *Color Switchers Markers* to make a list of kids' answers.

**SAY:** I'm going to read this list of things sheep need. As I read them, decide if they're things people need, too. If I read something that people need, raise your hand and you'll get to color over the word with a marker. Read items from the list, one at a time. If the item is something that both people and sheep need, choose a child to color over the word with the white side of one of the *Color Switchers Markers*.

**SAY:** Good shepherds make sure sheep have all the things they need from this list.

**ASK:** What does Jesus do to take care of us like a good shepherd?

**SAY:** Jesus takes care of us like a shepherd cares for his sheep. When we need something, ➡ **WE ASK JESUS TO HELP US.**





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## POINT ➡ WE ASK JESUS TO HELP US.

Choose two children to stand with you. SAY: **The Bible says that the Good Shepherd's sheep know his voice. Let's play a game. We'll pretend I'm the shepherd. You are my sheep. You'll turn around and close your eyes.** [Names of children standing with you] **and I will take turns talking to you.** [Names of children] **will try to sound like me. If anyone but me is talking, be very quiet and do not move. When you hear my voice, though, turn around and clap and cheer.**

Have "sheep" turn around and close their eyes. Have the kids standing by you imitate you. Then take your turn. Repeat the activity with different kids up front, so others can try to copy your voice.

ASK: **What made it easy or hard to know when I was speaking?**

**What makes it easy or hard to hear what Jesus, our good shepherd, says to us?**

SAY: **We learn to know Jesus' voice by learning what the Bible says. As you learn what the Bible says**

**and someday read it for yourself, you'll know Jesus' voice in your heart and how he's showing you to live. It will be just as easy for you to recognize Jesus' directions as it was to recognize my voice. And when ➡ WE ASK JESUS TO HELP US, we listen for his answer. This week, let's listen and look for how Jesus is helping us.**