

Fourth Sunday of Easter Sunday School



First Reading ACTS 2:42-47

They spent their time learning the apostles' teaching. And they continued to share, to break bread,^[a] and to pray together.

The apostles were doing many miracles and signs. And everyone felt great respect for God. All the believers stayed together. They shared everything. They sold their land and the things they owned. Then they divided the money and gave it to those people who needed it. The believers met together in the Temple every day. They all had the same purpose. They broke bread in their homes, happy to share their food with joyful hearts. They praised God, and all the people liked them. More and more people were being saved every day; the Lord was adding those people to the group of believers.

- This reading tells us about how early Christians lived
- They wanted to live like Jesus did – helping and caring for all people
- They spent time learning, praying, sharing, and giving to those in need

This shows us that church isn't a building, but a community that supports, loves, and prays for one another!

Even though we aren't physically going to our church building right now, we are still a part of church – we're praying for one another, helping those in our community, and showing our love in creative ways!

Think about a time someone did something nice for you – how did it feel?
What about a time you did someone nice for someone else? How did you feel? How did the other person feel?

Who are some people that you are praying for?



Gospel Reading JOHN 10:1-10

Jesus said, “I tell you the truth. The man who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs in some other way, is a thief and a robber. ²The one who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The man who guards the door opens it for him. And the sheep listen to the voice of the shepherd. He calls his own sheep, using their names, and he leads them out. ⁴He brings all of his sheep out. Then he goes ahead of them and leads them. They follow him because they know his voice. ⁵But they will never follow a stranger. They will run away from him because they don’t know his voice.” ⁶Jesus told the people this story, but they did not understand what it meant.

⁷So Jesus said again, “I tell you the truth. I am the door for the sheep. ⁸All the people who came before me were thieves and robbers. The sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the door. The person who enters through me will be saved. He will be able to come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰A thief comes to steal and kill and destroy. But I came to give life—life in all its fullness.

Back when Jesus was on earth, shepherds were very common. They would take care of sheep out in the wilderness. At night, they would often make a pen for them out of branches, rocks, or whatever they could find to keep them from walking away. The shepherd would lay down and sleep at the door, guarding the opening.



You can see the opening where a shepherd would lie down at night!

In this reading, Jesus is saying that he is the Good Shepherd – someone we can trust to guide us and keep us safe! With Jesus, we can have a full life – one filled with comfort and joy! Sometimes there are people who don't have the best intentions for us. A "bad shepherd" may be someone who wants to lead because they want things like power and money. Luckily, we have Jesus to be our Good Shepherd! Whenever you feel worried, remember that Jesus is always there to love, guide, and protect us.



I wonder how Jesus shows us that he is our shepherd?
I wonder what Jesus meant when he said he was the door?
I wonder how we can enter through Jesus?

Shepherd Facts

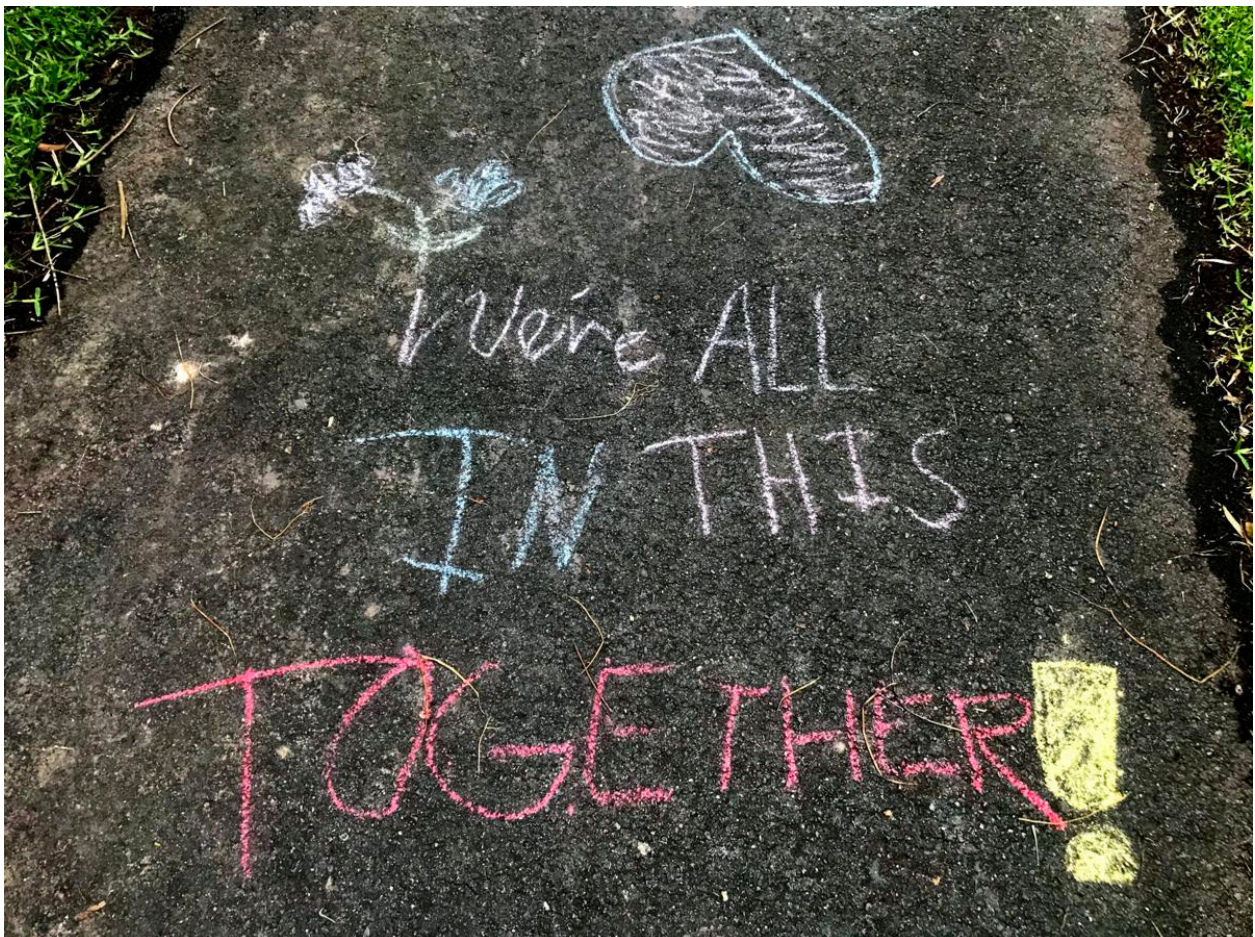
- A shepherd is someone who looks after sheep, a cowherd is someone who looks after cows, a swineherd looks after pigs, and a goatherd looks after goats!
- Shepherds were very common many years ago because sheep provided milk, meat, and wool to families
- Sheep would learn to recognize their shepherd's voice, and would not listen if someone else tried to call them (how can we connect this to Jesus being our shepherd?)
- Shepherds often worked with dogs who were trained to herd the sheep where the shepherd wanted them to go
 - Shepherd dogs are common today, some still work on farms!
- Because shepherds spent a lot of time by themselves, they often made music from simple instruments that they could make (like recorders or pan flutes)
- King David was a shepherd before becoming King of Israel

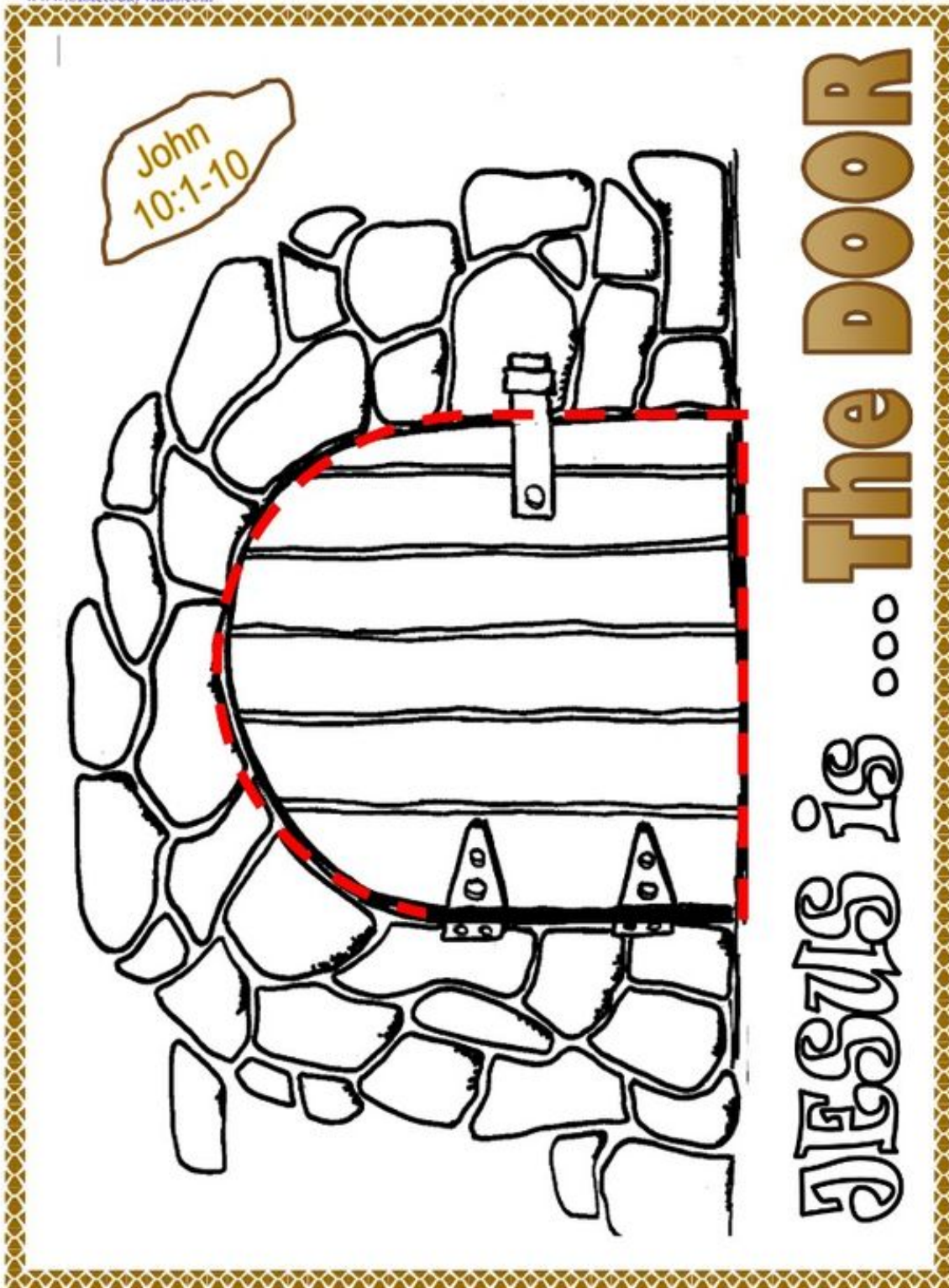


This is Ella's dog, Violet. She's a miniature Australian shepherd. Even though she's never lived on a farm, she stills tries to herd! She likes to sit outside and bark at people walking by because she thinks it's her job to protect the family (her "herd")!

Here are some ideas of how we can be like the early Christians through acts of service to others! We have to be creative with physical distancing, but there are many ways we can join together virtually and spread love to our community!

- Sing a happy song! Go curbside caroling with your family; create a music video and share far and wide; sing from your window, or simply sing along with the radio.
- Call or FaceTime friends, Grandparents, or Grandfriends just to say hello.
- Write positive messages on Post-It Notes and place on mirrors in your house.
- Hold gratitude circles at dinnertime.
- Do household chores without being asked – make your bed, pick up your toys, clean your room/bathroom.
- Draw pictures or write letters to send to residents of The Orchard
- Write chalk messages outside your house
- If you're having groceries or packages delivered, write a thank you note for the delivery person
- Take care of yourself – practice deep breathing, stretching, and make sure you're drinking lots of water





MAKE A 'DOOR' TO THE SHEEPFOLD - (1) Cut open the doorway on red dotted line (2) Take another A4 sheet and glue it to the back of this page. Don't glue the door. (3) Open the door and write the memory verse. (John 10:9).

The Good Shepherd

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." John 10:11 (NIV)

Based on John 10:11-18 (NIV)



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

WOLF	FLOCK	GOOD	KNOW	AUTHORITY
PEN	CARES	RUNS	SCATTERS	VOICE
SHEPHERD	FATHER	HIRED	ATTACKS	LOVES
LISTEN	LIFE	HAND	SHEEP	AWAY