

Fourth Sunday of Easter – year C

Preparation

Read [Psalm 23](#) and [John 10: 22-30](#) over. Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump at you. Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yearc/easterc4.htm>

http://archive.episcopalchurch.org/lessonPlans/109452_115784_ENG_HTM.htm:

scroll down to find this week's lesson

<http://children.cccm.com/OTSupportCurriculumPDF/148ShepherdsPsalm.pdf>

http://www.sermons4kids.com/safe_in_his_hands.htm

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/shepherd.htm>

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/c/4Easter-c/F-4Easter-c.html>

<http://talks2children.itsforministry.org/t2c/view.asp?ID=23>

Gathering

Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle
- Candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- White or yellow cloth
- Newsprint and markers

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you. With the children place the cloth on the table. Have them help you place the Bible on the cloth. Light the candle. Pray the following prayer together:

Praise God for new life!

Praise Jesus for new beginnings!

Praise Holy Spirit for new paths! Amen.

Blow out the candle. Ask the children if they have ever answered a telephone call and knew who the person was calling just by them saying 'hello'. *Wait for their responses.*

Ask them how else they know who someone is.

Possible answers – by how they look, the words that they use, the way they smell.

Explain that we know who people are in many different ways but one of the key ways we remember people is by the sound of their voice. Tell the children that in today's story Jesus will be talking about his voice in a special way.

Story Time

During this season a paraphrase of a verse of the psalm of the day will be used as a refrain for the story.

Instructions

- Teach the children the following phrase for use during the story:

God restores me. God leads me the right way.

Jesus was walking in the temple in Jerusalem. Some of the people there gathered around and said, “You need to tell us something. Are you the messiah, the promised one, from God?”

God restores me. God leads me the right way.

Jesus realized that the people asking him the question had not been really listening to the things he had been saying about his relationship with God. Jesus answered them by reminding them, “Everything you have seen me do, I have done because God the Father sent me to do them. I have shown what God wants. God wants you to love each other and to love God.”

God restores me. God leads me the right way.

Then Jesus went on to say, “If you do not believe me that is because you are not one of my sheep. My sheep hear my voice and they know my voice. I know them and they follow me. They will live with me forever.”

God restores me. God leads me the right way.

Jesus then said, “No one will be able to take them out of my hand. No one will be able to take them out of God’s hand. What God has given me is God’s and what I have is God’s. Remember that God and I are one.”

God restores me. God leads me the right way.

Response

Project Idea 1: Sheep Crayon Resist Picture

This is a multimedia project that will invite the children to a deeper relationship with today’s story and the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd.

Materials needed

- white drawing paper
- construction paper
- glue
- crayons
- tempera water paints and paint brushes
- water in small containers
- sheep image from end of lesson
- scissors
- markers

Instructions

Copy the sheep image at the end of the lesson, so that you have one for each child. For younger children cut out the images and let the older children do this themselves. Give each child a piece of white drawing paper and a sheep image. Get them to use their crayons to trace around the sheep shape as many times they want on their paper. Have the children press as hard as they can with the crayons. They may also want to add in other elements such as the grass or sun by outlining them with the crayons as well. When they are done this part have them print somewhere on the page with a marker **“We hear Jesus’ voice”**. Then have them glue their pictures on top of a piece of construction paper – so that the construction paper makes a frame around the white paper. Give them each a paint brush and have them lightly paint some watered down brightly coloured paint over the top of their pictures – the crayoned part of the picture will really pop at this point. Encourage the children to find a place to hang up their pictures at home to remind that we are the sheep that belong to Jesus.

Project Idea 2: Sandpaper Sheep Pendant

This response is one that will engage a number of the senses of the children and will have a visible way to show the image to their families.

Materials needed

- plastic lids from things like margarine or yogurt containers – they should be big enough that the children won’t have trouble working with them
- sandpaper
- glue
- scissors
- sheep image at end of lesson
- sharp pencils
- markers
- hole punch
- yarn or ribbon

Instructions

Cut the sandpaper in circles that fit inside of the plastic lids. Glue the sandpaper circles onto the inside of the lids. Copy the sheep image so that each child has one. Cut them out for the younger children. Give each child a prepared lid, a sheep shape and a sharp pencil. Have them cut out the sheep shape (if not already done) and then trace it onto the sandpaper with the sharp pencil. Using the markers have them colour in the sheep shape. When they are done help to punch a hole through the pendant and then tie a piece of ribbon or yarn through the hole so that they can hang the pendant around the necks. Suggest to the children that they tell their families that they are the Jesus’ sheep who hear Jesus’ voice’.

Project Idea 3: Salt Clay Sheep

This response will give the children a chance to make something concrete to help them remember today's story.

Materials needed

- salt clay recipe at end of lesson and everything needed for that
- aluminium pie plates
- pipe cleaners
- scissors
- place to wash hands
- instructions on how to bake sheep at end of lesson

Instructions

Copy the instructions at the end of the lesson so that you will have one for each child. Make enough clay so that each child will have a good sized lump to work with. Give the children the clay and a pie plate. Invite them to think about Jesus calling his friends to be his followers and that we know Jesus by his voice just as sheep know the voice of their shepherd. Invite the children to make a sheep shape using the clay – they may want to use the pipe cleaners to make legs, ears or other parts of the body as well. When they have finished making their sheep have the children place them on their pie plates and give them the instructions to take home so that they can bake them their. Tell the children if they want to paint their sheep later then they can do so at home. Help the children to clean up their hands when they are done.

Closing

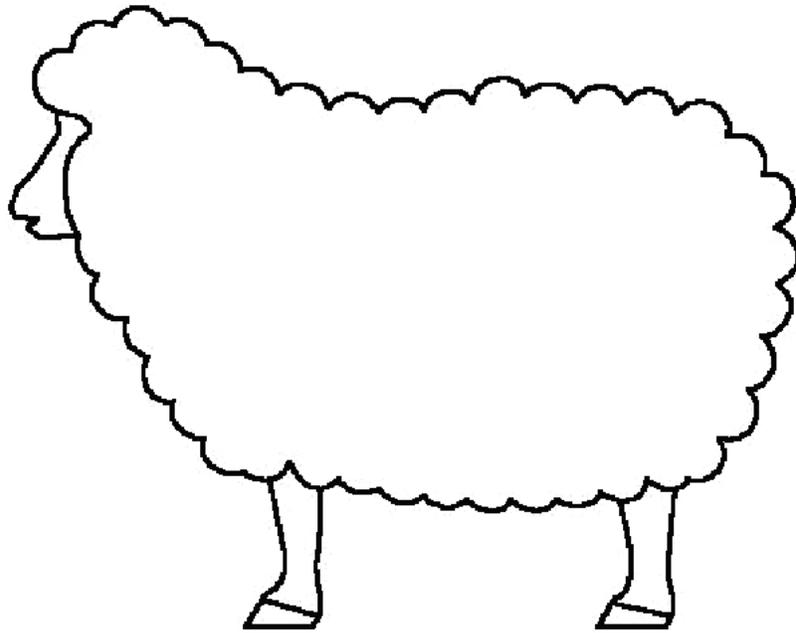
Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candle. Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

Alleluia! Thank you God for our time together.

Alleluia! Thank you Jesus for being with us.

Alleluia! Thank you Holy Spirit for leading us. Amen.

Sheep Image



Salt Clay Recipe

Ingredients

- 500 mL (2 cups) plain flour
- 250 mL (1 cup) salt
- 250–300 mL (1–1,5 cup) cold water
- 30 mL (2 tablespoons) cooking oil

Method

Mix and knead all the ingredients for about 2 minutes. Put the clay into a covered container. Mould the clay into creations. Place them on the aluminium pie plates, prick larger areas with a fork.

Baking instructions

Bake at 150°C (300°F) for about 1 hour or until golden and hard. Cool and paint as desired.