



# Diocese of Athabasca

## Sunday School Lesson Plan – Sunday, April 26, 2026

Here's a **Sunday School Lesson Plan** for young children (ages 4–8) and some activities for older children using the **Revised Common Lectionary readings** for **April 26, 2026 – Fourth Sunday of Easter (Year A)**. Bible Verses: Acts 2:42-47; Ps 23; 1 Pet 2:19-25; Jn 10:1-10; Preface of Easter

### Sunday School Lesson Plan

**Fourth Sunday of Easter – April 26**

Theme / Lesson Title

**“Jesus, the Good Shepherd”**

Big Idea

Jesus loves us and cares for us like a shepherd cares for his sheep. He leads us safely and helps us grow.

Lesson Focus for Kids

Children will learn that Jesus is our Good Shepherd who watches over us, guides us, and keeps us safe.

---

## Scripture Readings (Kid-Friendly Language)

Acts 2:42-47

The first followers of Jesus met together, prayed, shared meals, and helped each other. Everyone was happy, and God blessed them.

## Psalm 23

“The Lord is my shepherd; I have everything I need. He takes care of me and keeps me safe.”

## 1 Peter 2:19-25

Jesus was patient and kind, even when people were unkind to him. We can follow Jesus’ example and do what is right.

## John 10:1-10

Jesus says, “I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep, and my sheep know me. I give my sheep life and safety. I will never let anything bad happen to them.”

---

## Welcome & Opening Prayer (Circle Time)

### Teacher says:

“Good morning! Today we will hear about Jesus, our Good Shepherd, who takes care of us.”

### Opening Prayer:

Dear Jesus,  
Thank you for loving us and keeping us safe.  
Thank you for being our shepherd every day.  
Help us listen to your voice and follow you.  
Amen.

---

## Memory Verse

John 10:14

**“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.”**

Actions:

- **Good shepherd** – hands over shoulders like carrying a lamb
  - **Know my sheep** – point to eyes
  - **Sheep** – hands in a “baa” motion
-

# Bible Story Time

Tell the story with props or felt board:

- Jesus says he is like a shepherd.
- A shepherd takes care of each sheep, leads them to green grass and clean water, and keeps them safe from danger.
- Jesus knows each of us by name.
- He helps us do what is right and loves us even when we make mistakes.

Ask the children:

- Who takes care of sheep?
  - How does a shepherd help the sheep?
  - How does Jesus take care of us?
- 

## Craft / Activity

### “Jesus the Good Shepherd” Sheep Craft

#### Materials:

- White paper plates
- Cotton balls
- Glue
- Crayons or markers
- Popsicle sticks

#### Instructions:

1. Color a shepherd on a small popsicle stick.
  2. Glue cotton balls onto the paper plate to make a sheep.
  3. Place the shepherd behind the sheep (or attach shepherd to stick).
  4. Write: “Jesus is my Good Shepherd.”
- 

## Game

### Follow the Shepherd

1. One child is the shepherd; others are sheep.

2. Shepherd gives gentle instructions (“walk slowly,” “jump,” “turn around”).
3. Sheep must follow carefully.

Discuss: Jesus is our shepherd, guiding us safely every day.

---

## Song Suggestions

- **Jesus Loves Me**
- **B-I-B-L-E**
- **The Lord’s My Shepherd** (tune of Psalm 23)

Add hand motions for fun participation.

---

## Snack Suggestions

### Sheep Snacks

- Mini marshmallow “sheep” on graham cracker “grass”
- Apple slices or pretzel sticks as shepherd’s staff

Before eating, remind children:

“Just like the shepherd cares for the sheep, Jesus cares for us!”

---

## Wrap-Up & Reflection Questions

- Who is our shepherd?
  - How does Jesus take care of us?
  - How can we follow Jesus’ example today?
- 

## Closing Prayer

Dear Jesus,  
Thank you for being our Good Shepherd.  
Help us listen to your voice,

follow your ways,  
and share your love with others.  
Amen.

---

## Take-Home Idea

- Draw a picture of Jesus as your shepherd with you as one of his sheep.
  - Share with your family how Jesus helps you every day.
- 

## Teacher Notes

- Emphasize safety, guidance, and care – children relate to these concepts naturally.
- Connect the shepherd imagery to real-life examples of loving guidance (parents, teachers).
- Reinforce patience, kindness, and following Jesus' example from 1 Peter 2.
- Include visual aids: stuffed sheep, shepherd stick, or felt board for interactive storytelling.

## Other Idea Links

In searching for ideas for the lessons I sometimes come up with things that I choose not to add at this time but maybe you will find them helpful if the previous information is not what you are looking for. You can click on the links below to see more ideas.

<https://ministry-to-children.com/poem-about-jesus-the-good-shepherd/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=boNwWjuLVbI>

<https://www.daniellesplace.com/html/rrpreschoolgoodshepherd.html>

<https://ldsprimaryprintables.com/good-shepherd-parable>

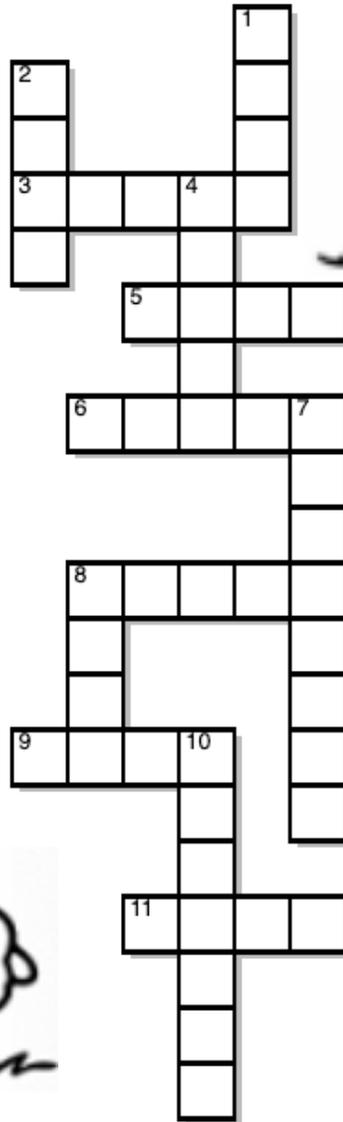
# Jesus the Good Shepherd

Fourth Sunday of Easter



# Jesus the Good Shepherd

Fourth Sunday of Easter



## ACROSS

- 3 Sound of speech
- 5 Get bigger
- 6 Saviour
- 8 Ram, ewe
- 9 Aid
- 11 Tender and considerate

## DOWN

- 1 Existence
- 2 Adore
- 4 Oversees
- 7 Tends sheep
- 8 Protected
- 10 Even manner

# Jesus the Good Shepherd

Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

Jesus  
Love  
Shepherd  
Cares  
Safe  
Help

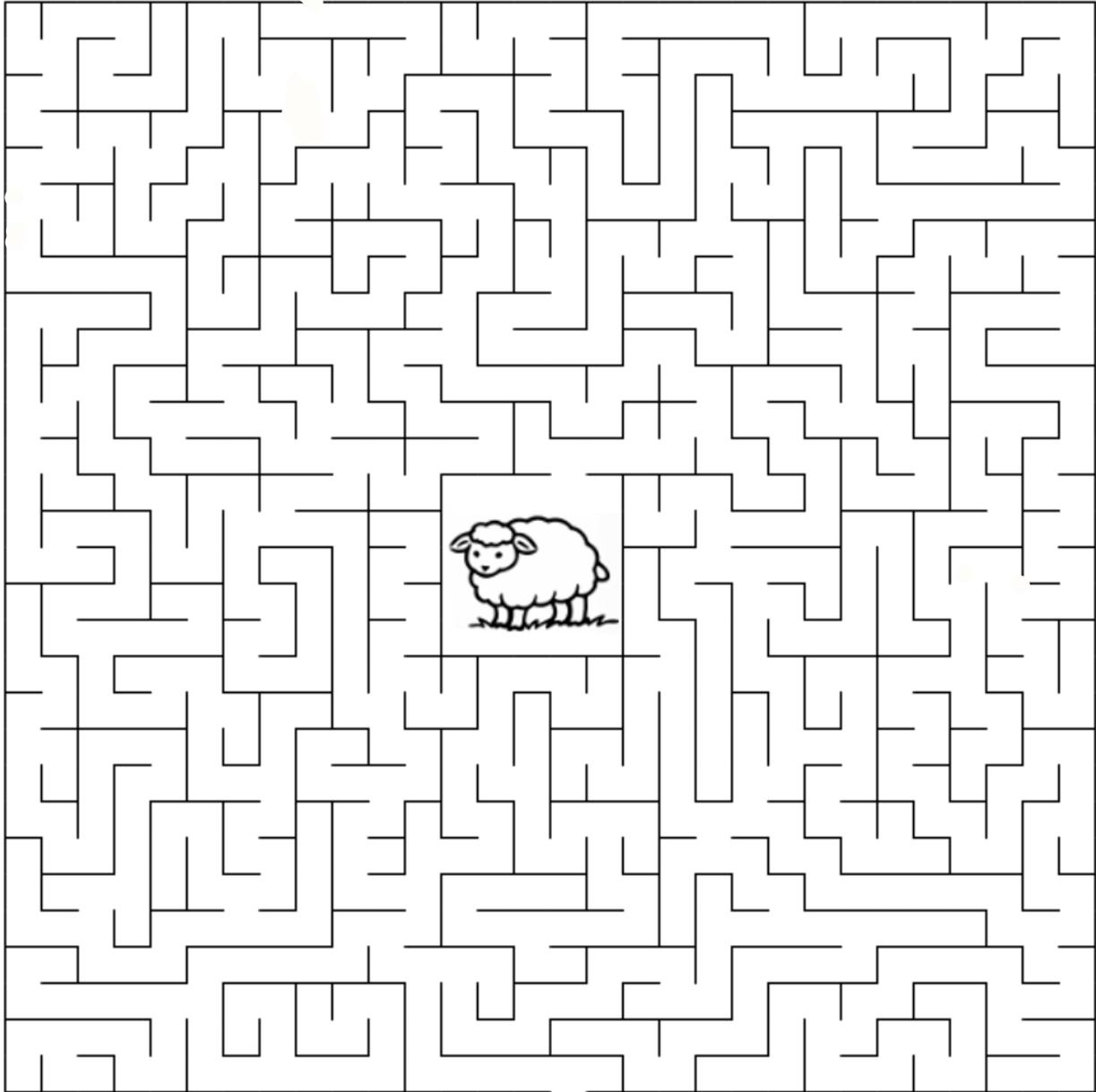
Grow  
Patient  
Kind  
Sheep  
Life  
Voice



# Jesus the Good Shepherd

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Help the sheep find their way to Jesus the Shepherd.



# Jesus the Good Shepherd

## Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

<u>24</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>26</u>		<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>8</u>		<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>		<u>14</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>17</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>8</u>		<u>16</u>				
<u>17</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>		<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>24</u>		<u>2</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>9</u>	<u>26</u>		<u>14</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>17</u>		<u>14</u>	<u>26</u>			
<u>4</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>26</u>		<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>		<u>16</u>	<u>6</u>			
<u>16</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>6</u>		<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>9</u>	<u>26</u>		<u>4</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>17</u>		<u>14</u>	<u>26</u>			
<u>13</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>26</u>		<u>17</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>		
<u>2</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>17</u>		<u>9</u>	<u>26</u>					
<u>21</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>17</u>		<u>14</u>	<u>22</u>			
<u>17</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>		<u>9</u>	<u>26</u>		<u>4</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>17</u>	
<u>14</u>	<u>26</u>		<u>16</u>	<u>6</u>		<u>21</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>24</u>			
<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>17</u>		<u>23</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>21</u>		<u>9</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	
<u>6</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>26</u>		<u>17</u>		<u>17</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>26</u>			



**Crossword – Key:**

Across

- 3. Voice
- 5. Grow
- 6. Jesus
- 8. Sheep
- 9. Help
- 11. Kind

Down

- 1. Life
- 2. Love
- 4. Cares
- 7. Shepherd
- 8. Safe
- 10. Patient

**Cryptogram – Key:**

**Psalm 23: 1-3**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters, he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.