

The Shepherd

Lesson Objectives

- The children will identify Jesus as a shepherd.
- The children will state that Jesus takes care of them by giving them families, homes, food and clothes.
- The children will thank Jesus for taking care of them.

Bible Story Text

Matthew 18:10-14, John 10:1-18

Bible Truth

"Love each other."
(John 15:17)

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Preclass Centers

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Bible Story: The Lost Sheep

Life Application: Follow the Shepherd

Craft: Cotton Ball Lamb

NOTE: Be sure to allow sufficient time for a snack.



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The Shepherd

Preclass Centers

As the children arrive, guide them to a preclass center. Have no more than six children at each center.

Materials

Use the materials previously selected for this unit's preclass centers.

Preparation

1. Be sure to check the condition of the materials selected for this unit's preclass centers prior to set up. Replace any broken toys, or puzzles with missing pieces as necessary.
2. Set up the centers before the children come into the classroom.
3. Assign a teacher to each center and have the teachers stay in those centers until the singing begins.

Instructions

Guide the play in each center reinforcing the unit theme.

Teacher Tips

- **IMPORTANT:** Do not allow any small toys in the classroom. First check all toys for size. You can obtain a "safety cylinder" from a pediatrician. Any object that can fit into the cylinder is too small and could cause a child to choke.
- Be involved in the group play and offer guidance as needed.
- Wear comfortable clothes suitable for sitting on the floor.
- Smile! Be childlike in heart and alert in mind.



The Shepherd

The Lost Sheep

The children will learn that Jesus is a shepherd because he cares for them as a shepherd cares for his sheep.

Bible Story Text

Matthew 18:10-14

Materials

For the teacher:

- scissors
- markers or crayons

Reproducible Page:

- Page A, 1 copy for the teacher
- Page B, 1 copy for the teacher

Preparation

1. Cut out the teaching picture and the lamb from the copies of Reproducible Pages A and B.
2. Color the teaching picture and the lamb.
3. Make a cut along the solid line on the picture. Insert the lamb into the slit as shown in Figure A.

Lost and Found

Seat the children in a circle. Open the Bible to Matthew 18 and place it in your lap. *Do you like to hear stories? Jesus told the people many stories. Everyone liked to hear the stories that Jesus told. Remember the Bible story about the hurt man? Who helped the hurt man? That's right the Samaritan did. Some men walked past the man, but didn't help him. What does Jesus want us to do? Yes, he wants us to help others.*

One day Jesus told a story about a shepherd. Show the teaching picture. Do you see the shepherd? Have the children point to the shepherd and touch him. Do you see the sheep? Where are the sheep?

Let the children touch the sheep in the picture. *What do the sheep say? Yes, they say, "Baa. Baa." Let's pretend that you are all little sheep. Can you say, "Baa. Baa."?*

Do you know what a shepherd does? He takes care of the sheep. When the shepherd says, "Come on, little sheep, I will take you to the water so you can get a drink." The little sheep say... Have the children respond with "Baa. Baa." Yes, that's right. When the shepherd says, "Come on, little sheep, I will take you to some

nice green grass so that you can eat." The little sheep say... Have the children respond. Now when it is time to go to sleep, the shepherd says, "I will take you to a safe place so you can go to sleep." And the little sheep say... Have the children respond.

One day while the little sheep were eating grass, the shepherd looked around and said, "Uh. Oh! One of my sheep is gone! I must find him." The shepherd went looking for his lost sheep (Matthew 18:12). He looked by the water. Was he there? No. The shepherd looked on the hill. Was he there? No. Then the shepherd looked behind a big rock. Was he there? Push the sheep through the slit in the back of the teaching picture so that it appears to come from behind the rock. Yes! The shepherd was so happy that he found his lost sheep! He loved his sheep and he took very good care of all of them.

The Bible says that we are like sheep and Jesus is our shepherd. That means that Jesus takes good care of us, just like the shepherd.

Let's say a prayer and thank Jesus for the way he takes care of us. Say a short prayer. Let the children pray if they wish.

Save the teaching picture and the lamb for Unit 6 Lesson 4, Bible Story.

Conclusion

A shepherd takes good care of his sheep. Was the shepherd in the Bible story sad when the sheep got lost? How did he feel when the sheep was found? Yes, he was happy.

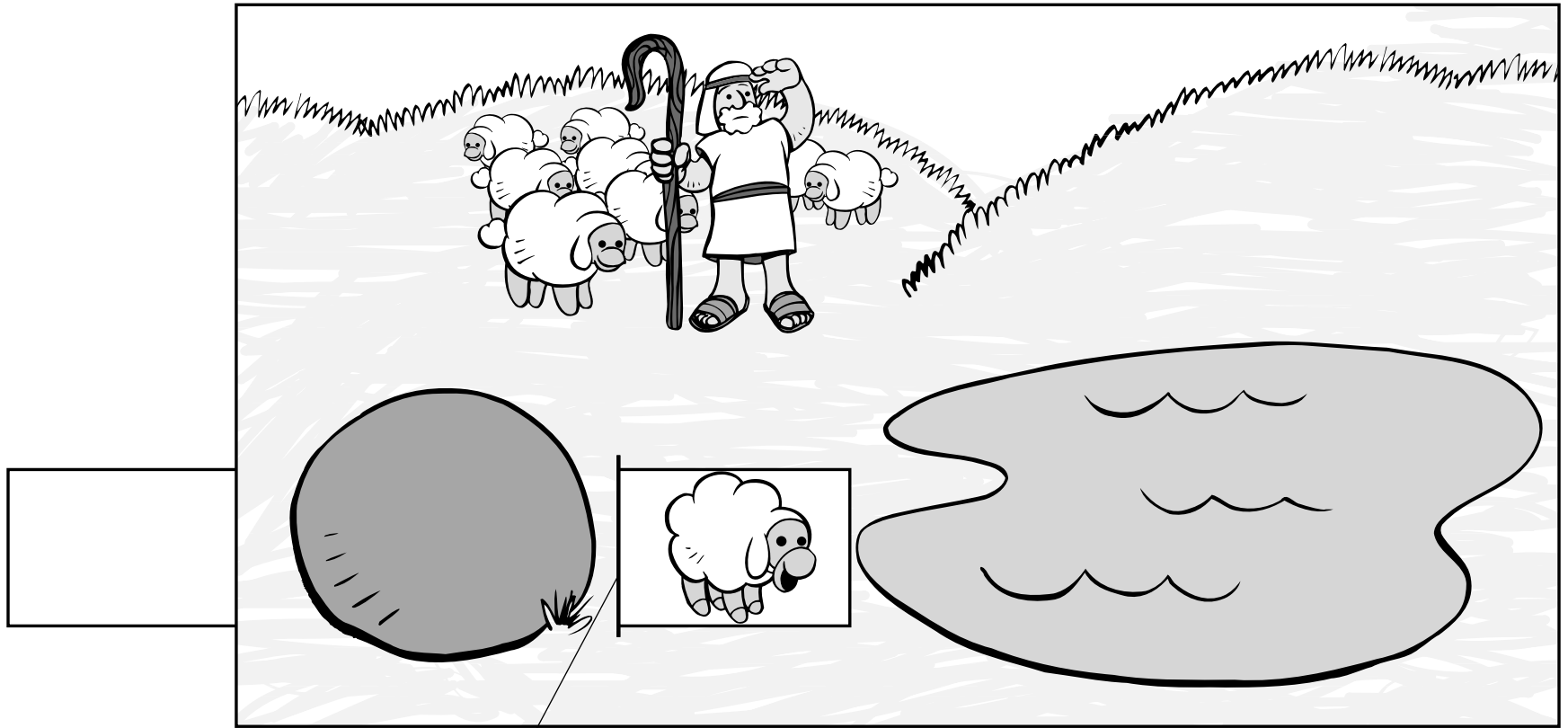
Jesus loves us and he wants us to love each other. The Bible says, "Love each other." Let's say it again: Love each other.

Teacher Tips

You may choose to laminate the teaching picture and the lamb to help them last longer.



The Shepherd



slit

Figure A



The Shepherd

Follow the Shepherd

This activity will reinforce the lesson that the children are Jesus' lambs, and Jesus is the Good Shepherd.

Bible Truth

"Love each other."
(John 15:17)

Materials

For the teacher:

- bathrobe or sheet with a belt that ties for a shepherd costume
- a staff or cane or a large stick

Preparation

Familiarize yourself with the song and instructions that follow so that you are prepared to act out the different actions in the song's verses.

Instructions

Tell the children that they are lambs. *What do lambs say? That's right. "Baa. Baa."* Get down on the floor with them and pretend to be lambs.

Lambs need a shepherd to take care of them, just as children need a daddy and mommy. Put on your shepherd's outfit. *I am the shepherd and this is my staff.* Explain to them that the lambs watch the staff and follow it.

Let's play "Follow the Shepherd." Little lambs you follow me and do what I do. Sing "Six Little Lambs" from the Unit 6 Song Sheet. Act out each verse as you sing the song with them. Sing the song a few times letting a few children switch roles with you and become the shepherd.

Bible Truth Activity

Jesus is our shepherd. We are his lambs. The shepherd loves his lambs, and the lambs love their shepherd. The Bible says, "Love each other." Let's all say it together: Love each other.

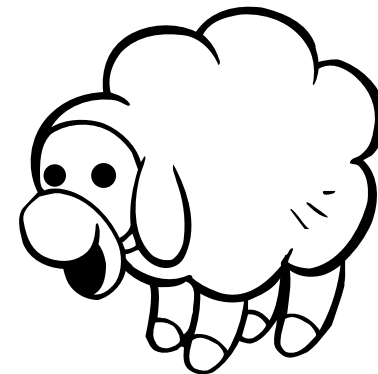
Conclusion

Let's thank Jesus. Thank you, Jesus, for being our shepherd and taking such good care of us. Amen.

Who are you going to tell about Bible class? What are you going to tell them that you have learned today? Many people don't know that Jesus takes such good care of them. We need to tell them that Jesus loves them and takes good care of them.

Teacher Tips

- Have fun with this activity. Don't be afraid to "get into it" with the children.
- You may choose to make some sort of costumes for the children. Something as simple as taping a single cotton ball onto each child's shirt will make it more fun for them.



The Shepherd

Love Each Other.



Craft

The Shepherd Cotton Ball Lamb

The children will make lambs to remind them that we are Jesus' little lambs and that he takes care of us.

Materials

For each child:

- 1 piece of narrow ribbon, 9" long
- 1 piece of construction paper
- glue stick
- cotton balls

For the teacher:

- scissors
- marker
- 5 pieces of white paper

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

1. Cut out the lamb stencil from the copies of Reproducible Page C.
2. Make a small bow for each child from the ribbon.
3. Cut the white paper into 2" x 5" strips. On each strip write, "I am Jesus' little lamb."
4. Following the instructions, make a model of the craft to show the children.

Instructions

1. Show the children your model.
2. Give each child a piece of construction paper and a lamb. Have the child glue the lamb to the paper.
3. Have the child glue the strip of white paper to the top of the construction paper.
4. Give each child a handful of cotton balls to glue onto the lamb's body.
5. Help the children glue the bows to the necks of their lambs.
6. Write the children's names on their papers below their lambs.

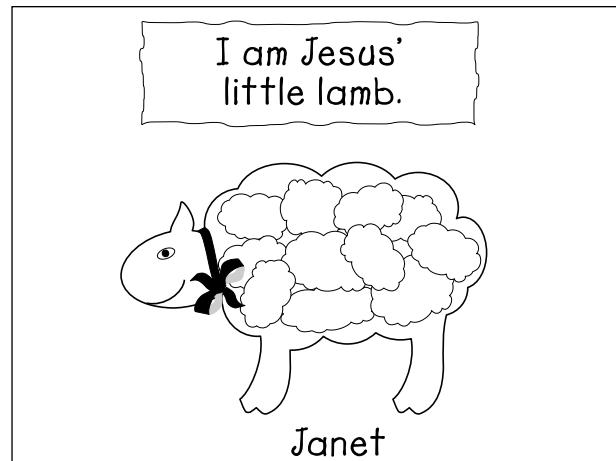
Conclusion

What does the shepherd do to take care of the sheep? (gives them food, water, a safe place to live, watches over them while they sleep, etc.)

We are just like this sheep to Jesus. He takes care of us. On the top of your paper it says, "I am Jesus' little lamb." What are some ways that Jesus takes care of you? (He provides a place to live, a family to love you, food to eat, etc.)

Teacher Tips

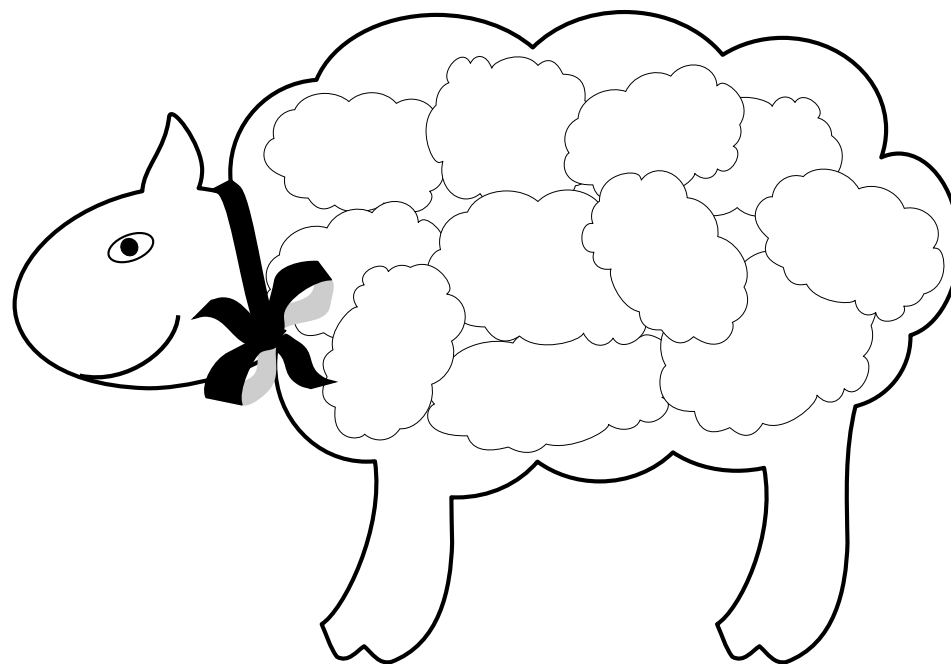
Show the children how to pull the cotton apart to make it cover a larger area.



craft

The Shepherd

I am Jesus'
little lamb.



Janet

Finished Craft





The Shepherd

Jesus Loves Everyone

Lesson 3

Lesson Objectives

- The children will identify Jesus as a shepherd.
- The children will state that Jesus takes care of them by giving them families, homes, food and clothes.
- The children will thank Jesus for taking care of them.

Bible Story Text

Matthew 18:10-14

Bible Truth

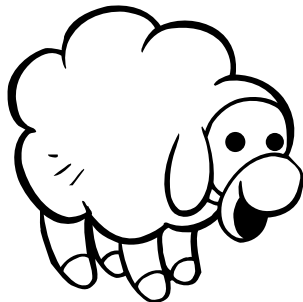
“Love each other.”
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Preclass Centers

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Materials

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Preparation

1. Be sure to check the condition of the materials selected for this unit’s preclass centers prior to set up. Replace any broken toys, or puzzles with missing pieces as necessary.
2. Set up the centers before the children come into the classroom.
3. Assign a teacher to each center and have the teachers stay in those centers until the singing begins.

Instructions

Guide the play in each center reinforcing the unit theme.

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Preclass Centers

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Life Application: Where Is My Lamb?

Bible Story: The Lost Sheep

Craft: Lamb Puppet

NOTE: Be sure to allow sufficient time for a snack.

Teacher Tips

- **IMPORTANT:** Do not allow any small toys in the classroom. First check all toys for size. You can obtain a “safety cylinder” from a pediatrician. Any object that can fit into the cylinder is too small and could cause a child to choke.
- Be involved in the group play and offer guidance as needed.
- Wear comfortable clothes suitable for sitting on the floor.
- Smile! Be childlike in heart and alert in mind.

Where Is My Lamb?

The children will role play the part of sheep to show them how Jesus watches over them as a shepherd.

Bible Truth

"Love each other."
 (John 15:17)

Materials

For each child:

- 1 large craft stick

For the teacher:

- scissors
- crayons or water-based markers
- clear contact paper or laminate
- masking tape

Reproducible Pages:

- Page D, 1 copy per child

Preparation

1. Cut out all of the lamb figures and 1 shepherd figure from the copies of Reproducible Page D.
2. Color the lamb figures and the shepherd figure.
3. Cover the figures with clear contact paper.
4. Tape a large craft stick to the back of each figure to make stick puppets.
5. Make a lamb and a shepherd stick puppet for yourself to use as props.

The Shepherd

Instructions

Give each child a lamb stick puppet. Tell the children that we are Jesus' little lambs. Hold up your lamb puppet and say: *This is Elizabeth Lamb. Who are you? Oh, you are Bo Lamb. And you are Jonathan Lamb.* Continue introducing each of the lambs until you have said everyone's name. Talk about how much Jesus loves his little lambs.

Show the children the shepherd stick puppet. Ask the children if they know his name. *That's right. His name is Jesus!* Sing "Where Is My Lamb?" from the Unit 6 Song Sheet. Repeat the song each time using a different child's name.

Collect the stick puppets from the children. Save the stick puppets for Unit 6 Lesson 4, Life Application.

Bible Truth Activity

Just as the shepherd loves his little lambs, Jesus loves each one of us. And just as Jesus loves each one of us, the Bible says we must "Love each other." Let's all say this together: Love each other.

Conclusion

Let's thank Jesus. Thank you, Jesus, for taking good care of us like sheep. Amen.

Who are you going to tell about what you are learning in Bible class today? What are you going to tell them? Many people don't know that Jesus takes care of us. We should tell them.



The Lost Sheep

The children will learn that Jesus is a shepherd because he cares for them as a shepherd cares for his sheep.

Bible Story Text

Matthew 18:10-14

Materials

For the teacher:

- scissors
- markers or crayons

Reproducible Page:

- Page A, 1 copy for the teacher
- Page B, 1 copy for the teacher

Preparation

1. Cut out the lamb and the teaching picture from the copies of Reproducible Pages A and B.
2. Color the teaching picture and the lamb.
3. Make a cut along the solid line on the picture. Insert the lamb into the slit as shown in Figure A.

Lost and Found

Seat the children in a circle. Open the Bible to Matthew 18 and place it in your lap. *Do you like to hear stories? Jesus told the people many stories. Everyone liked to hear the stories that Jesus told. Remember the Bible story about the hurt man? Who helped the hurt man? That's right the Samaritan did. Some men walked past the man, but didn't help him. What does Jesus want us to do? Yes, he wants us to help others.*

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Let the children touch the sheep in the picture. *What do the sheep say? Yes, they say, "Baa. Baa." Let's pretend that you are all little sheep. Can you say, "Baa. Baa"?*

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The Shepherd

nice green grass so that you can eat." The little sheep say... Have the children respond. Now when it is time to go to sleep, the shepherd says, "I will take you to a safe place so you can go to sleep." And the little sheep say... Have the children respond.

One day while the little sheep were eating grass, the shepherd looked around and said, "Uh. Oh! One of my sheep is gone! I must find him." The shepherd went looking for his lost sheep (Matthew 18:12). He looked by the water. Was he there? No. The shepherd looked on the hill. Was he there? No. Then the shepherd looked behind a big rock. Was he there? Push the sheep through the slit in the back of the teaching picture so that it appears to come from behind the rock. Yes! The shepherd was so happy that he found his lost sheep! He loved his sheep and he took very good care of all of them.

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Let's say a prayer and thank Jesus for the way he takes care of us. Say a short prayer. Let the children pray if they wish.

Save the teaching picture and the lamb for Unit 6 Lesson 4, Bible Story.

Conclusion

A shepherd takes good care of his sheep. Was the shepherd in the Bible story sad when the sheep got lost? How did he feel when the sheep was found? Yes, he was happy.

Jesus loves us and he wants us to love each other. The Bible says, "Love each other." Let's say it again: Love each other.

Teacher Tips

You may choose to laminate the teaching picture and the lamb to help them last longer.

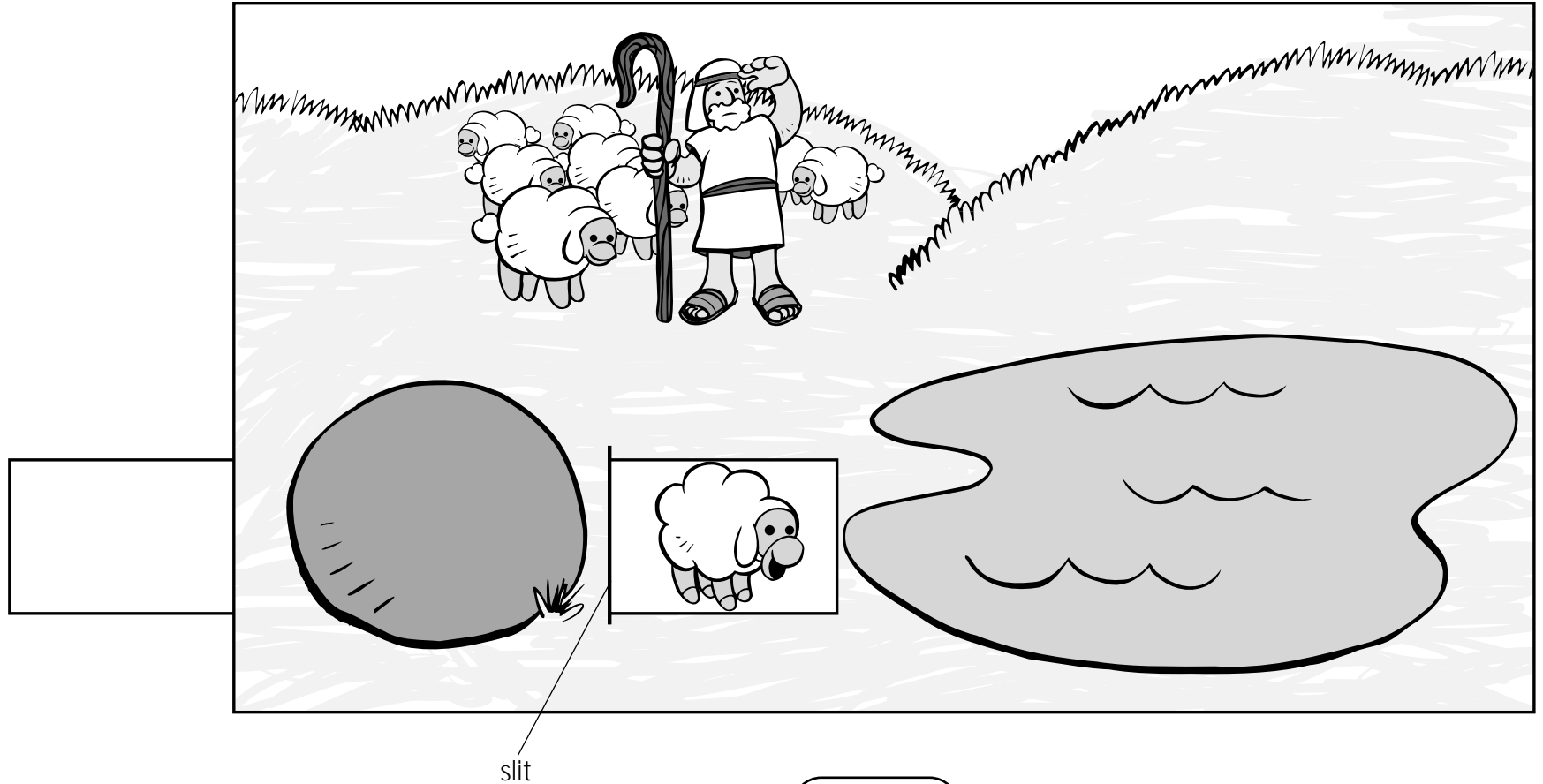


Figure A

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Lamb Puppet

The children will make lamb puppets to remind them that we are Jesus' lambs and he is our shepherd.

Materials

- 1 small white paper bag
- glue stick

For the teacher:

- cotton balls

Reproducible Pages:

- Page E, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

1. Cut out the lamb faces from the copies of Reproducible Page E.
2. Make a model of the craft following the instructions.

Instructions

1. Give each child a lamb face and some cotton balls.
2. Show the children how to pull their cotton apart.
3. Have the children glue the cotton to their lamb faces.
4. Have the children glue their lamb faces to the bottom flap of their paper bags, as shown in Figure A.
5. Show the children how to make the lamb's mouth open and close by moving your hand inside the bag.

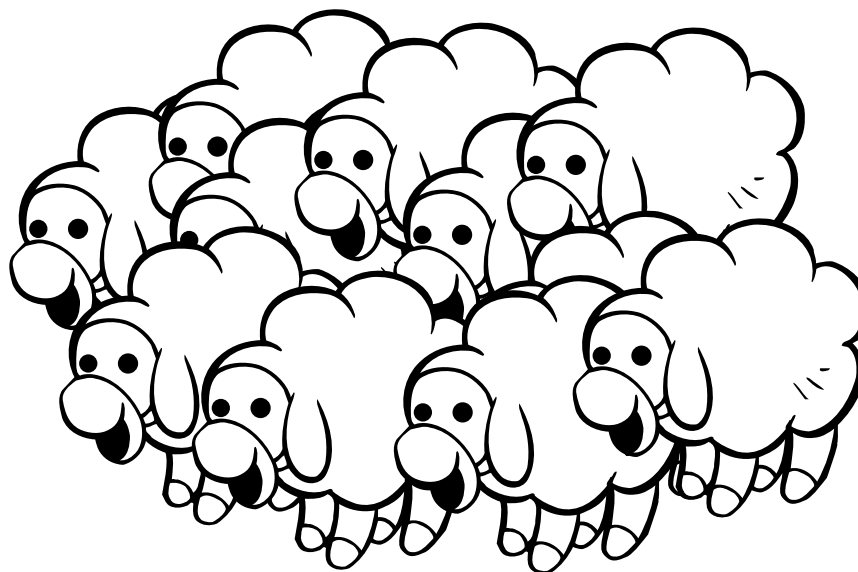
Conclusion

Ask the children to tell you what the lamb says. (Baa. Baa.) Let them make lamb noises to each other.

Can your lambs say the Bible truth? Let's say it with them: Love each other.

Teacher Tips

If you cannot find white paper bags, use small brown lunch bags.



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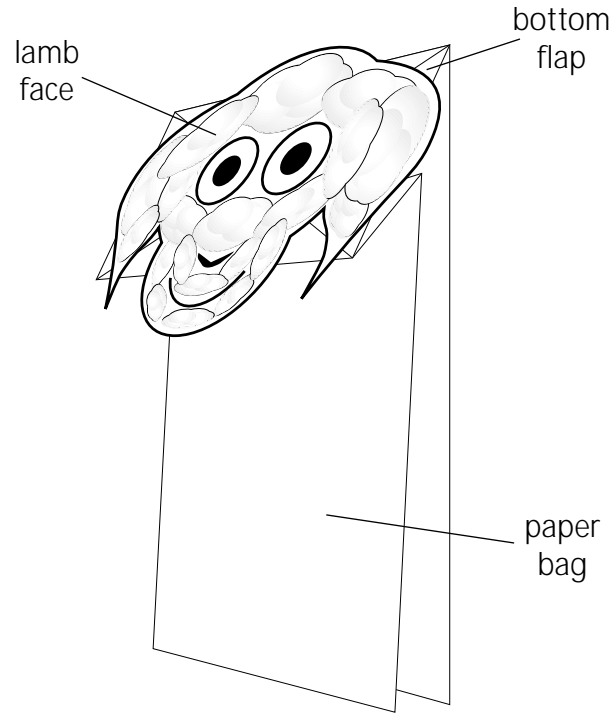
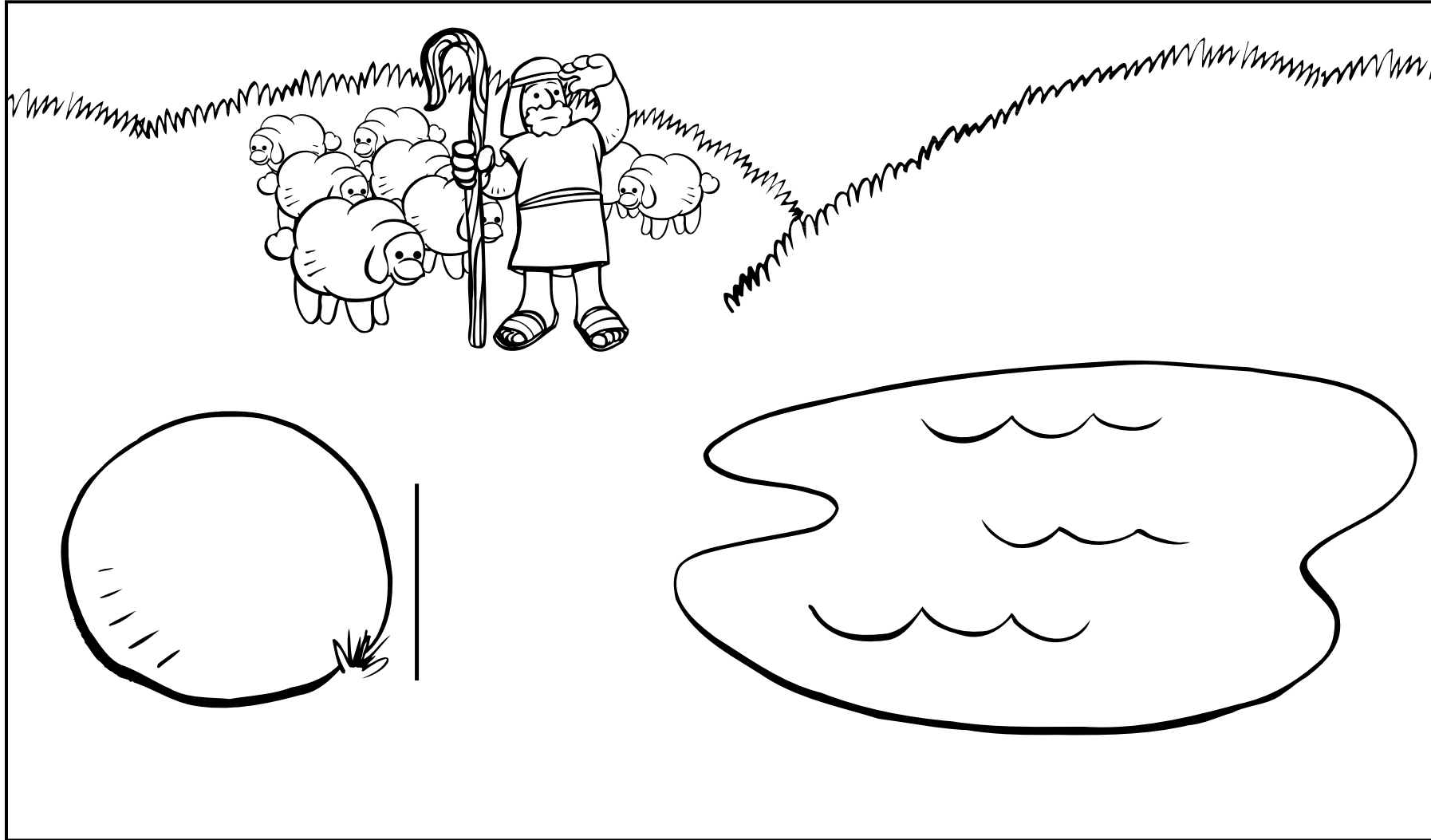


Figure A





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teaching picture





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Core/Bible Story 1 copy for the teacher
Supplement/Bible Story 1 copy for the teacher

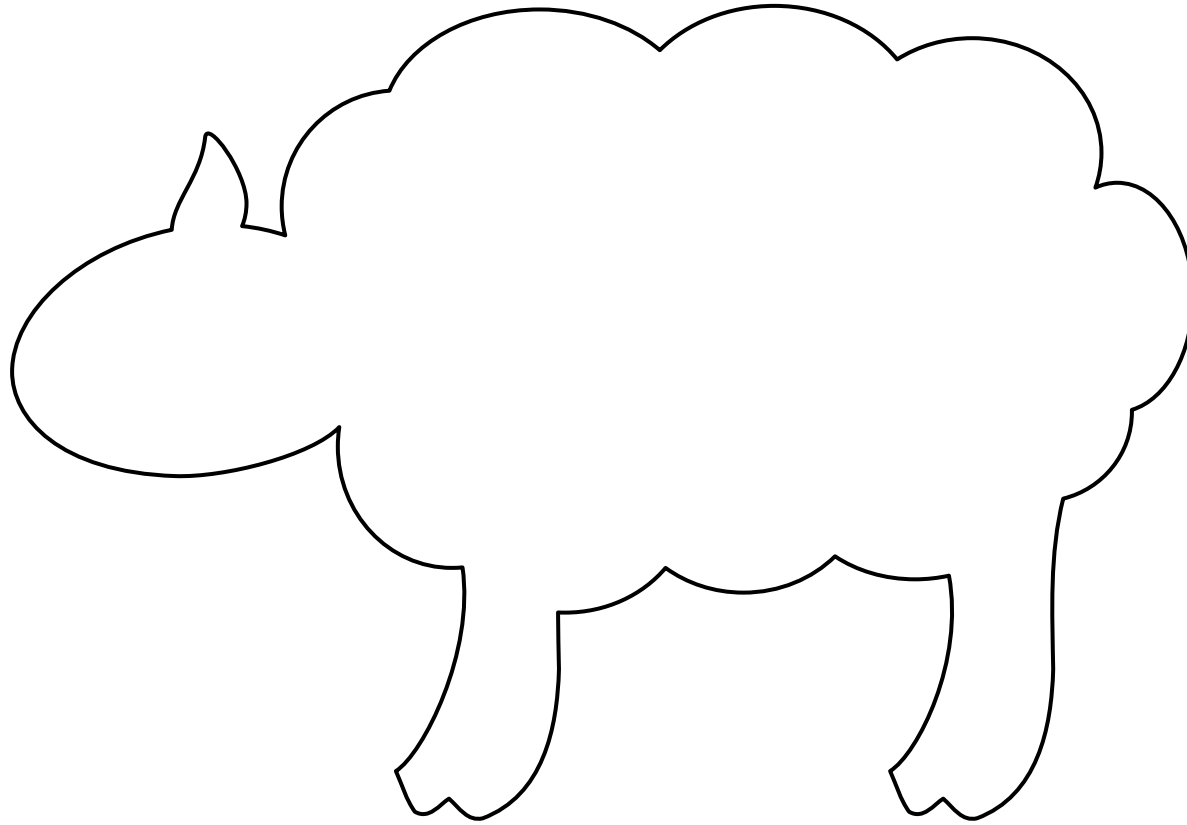


lamb





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lamb stencil

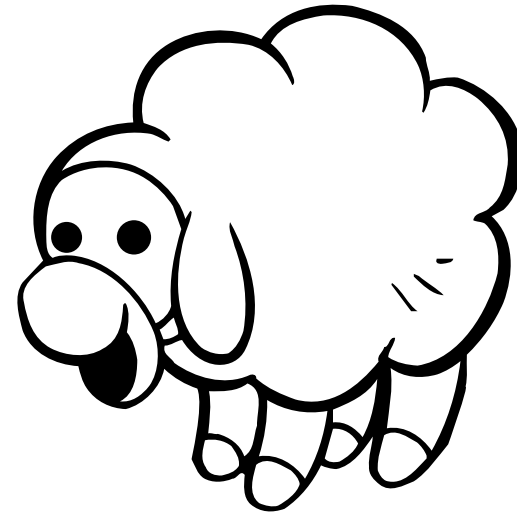




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shepherd figure



lamb figure



