

HOOK

GUESS THE ANIMAL

Show silhouettes of different animals, or play animal sounds, or ask quiz questions about animals, e.g.

“Which is the fastest land animal? Which is the strongest animal? etc”, for the kids to guess.

End with “Sheep”.



LESSON

INTRO

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

Who said this?

Who is the Good Shepherd?

What did the Good Shepherd do?

Who is the sheep?

Jesus said this, so He is the Good Shepherd. If you have accepted Jesus as your saviour, you are a sheep and Jesus is your shepherd.

SHEEP ...

Of all types of animals that he created, God chose to describe us as sheep. Have you thought, why not a powerful animal like a tiger or a lion? Why not a cheetah or an elephant?

And why sheep? Sheep are a little dumb. They are quite helpless too.

- Sheep can't see very well behind them
- They often follow other sheep without thinking
- They need protection from predators
- They need help finding food and water
- If a sheep wanders off on its own and falls on its back, with its thick and heavy fleece, it can't get up and can die through suffocation.



& SHEPHERD

Jesus described us as sheep because, like sheep, we need the shepherd.

Psalm 23: 1 says *"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want"* (NKJV) or *"... I have all that I need"* (NLT).

What are some ways the shepherd takes care of the sheep? (Get kids to share)

In the same way, Jesus, our Good Shepherd takes care of us. He is the one who provides everything we need, whether it's the food we eat, clothes we wear, and house to live in, friends in a new class or school, or wisdom for our studies.

JESUS IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Jesus is not just any shepherd. He is the Good Shepherd.

What's the opposite of Good Shepherd? *A Bad Shepherd.*

What is a Bad Shepherd like?

- Usually it is someone who just gets paid to watch the sheep, but do not really care about them
- Runs away when wolves or danger comes
- Thinks mostly about himself, not the sheep's needs
- Might not notice when a sheep is missing (maybe busy scrolling on his phone? :-p)
- Might take sheep to dangerous places where they could get hurt
- Gets impatient when sheep move slowly or need help
- Doesn't learn the sheep's names or individual needs
- Might be rough or unkind to the sheep

And what is the Good Shepherd (Jesus) like?

- Loves and knows each sheep by name
- Puts the sheep's needs before His own
- Protects the sheep from danger, even risking His own life
- Makes sure the sheep have good food and clean water
- Searches for lost sheep until they're found
- Stays with the sheep during storms and danger
- Leads sheep to safe places and good pastures
- Bandages wounds and carries tired lambs
- Never leaves the sheep alone or unprotected

We have a Good Shepherd. He lays down His life for us, the sheep. He was willing to suffer and die so that we can have His life, the best life ever.

JESUS IS MY SHEPHERD

Yes, Jesus is the Good Shepherd. But most importantly, you must know that Jesus is your Shepherd.

Let's say this together "The Lord is **my** Shepherd".

Anytime you feel sad or scared, say this aloud, "The Lord is **my** Shepherd", and remember that Jesus, your Good Shepherd, will take care of you.

If you still feel sad or scared, say it again and again. As you say it, think of Jesus beside you, loving you and taking care of you.

We will learn more about the relationship between a sheep and the Good Shepherd, and how it relates to us, in the coming weeks.

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

MEMORY VERSE

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

Idea: Provide sheep-shaped cutouts with parts of the verse written on them. Children put the "verse sheep" in order on a display board.

CRAFT IDEA

Prepare a large pastoral scene on a board with green fields, water, and a shepherd silhouette.

Prepare some sheep cutouts. Get kids to decorate the sheep cutouts and write their names on them, then stick the sheep cutouts on the board.



SHARE & PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Invite kids to put their trust in God.

Remind kids that: **Jesus is MY Shepherd.**

HOOK

GUESS THE VOICE

Blindfold a volunteer or ask him/her to turn to the wall and stand with back facing the rest of the class. Now get each one of the other children to say 3 words, e.g. "Jesus loves you", and ask the volunteer to guess who said it.

Variation: Have children disguise their voices to make it more challenging

Discuss: "How did you know who was speaking? What clues helped you?"

It is good that you can hear and recognise (know) your classmate's voice, but it is even more important for us hear and know when Jesus is speaking to us.

LESSON

REVIEW

Last week, we learnt that we are the sheep and Jesus is our good shepherd. Like sheep, we need the shepherd. We need Jesus, our good shepherd to take care of us.

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

THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

John 10:3-4 *The sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.*

Do you know who said this? Yes, it's Jesus, our Good Shepherd.

Just like the shepherd lead the sheep by calling out to them, Jesus also calls out to us as He leads us.

He loves us so much and wants to take care of us. He wants to lead us to places and areas where we can enjoy abundant life, the good life. Jesus wants to protect us from harm. He will warn us of dangers and the traps that the devil wants us to fall into so that we will not get hurt. He said we can listen to His voice and follow Him, like how the sheep listen to the shepherd's voice and follow him.

Play a video to show how sheep listen to their shepherd's voice.

<https://youtu.be/CyVm5G4tWe8?si=pBxM5y9wRvR2svtP>

Some discussion questions:

What happened when the shepherd called? Did the sheep follow anyone else? Why not? Why do you think the sheep only follow their shepherd's voice?

Sheep learn to trust their shepherd because the shepherd always takes care of them!

LISTENING TO HIS VOICE

How do we listen to Jesus' voice?

- **Reading His Word**

The Bible is God's love letter to us Share a story of how a Bible verse helped you make a decision or guided you.

God's Word is "living and active" (Hebrews 4:12). God's word is alive, it is special, God breathed into it. Even if you have heard the same verse many times before, Jesus can still speak to you through that verse. So when you are reading the Bible (whether with your family or on your own), ask God to open your eyes, ears and heart. When anything catches your attention, remember it, write it down and meditate on it — i.e. keep thinking about it and ask Jesus to show you what it means. E.g., this lesson, we learn the verse: "the sheep listen to his voice". Continue to keep thinking about it and ask Jesus to show you what he wants to you learn from this.

- **Through others**

Jesus can also speak to you through people, for example, your mother/father, or even your tNCC Kidz teacher. E.g. When your mom reminds you to be kind, that's the same message Jesus taught. Who has helped you learn about Jesus?

- **Through nature and creation**

"The heavens declare the glory of God" (Psalm 19:1).

E.g. When you see the beautiful sunset, you can remember God created it, and He may speak to you through it.

- **Through circumstances**

God can guide us through open and closed doors. E.g. When you wanted to play with someone who wasn't being nice, and then found a kinder friend instead, that might be God protecting you.

- **Through prayer**

Prayer is talking AND listening to God. Sometimes God speaks through a quiet feeling in our hearts. E.g. When you feel peace after praying about something scary, that's Jesus comforting you.

We will learn more about hearing His voice through prayer next week.

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

LISTENING TO JESUS

Dim lights and play soft music.

Let's quieten our hearts now and practice listening to Jesus. What is He saying to you?

[Give kids about 45 seconds to do so]

Let's also ask Jesus to help you hear His voice. [For younger kids, guide them to pray]

MEMORY VERSE

John 10:3-4 *"The sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out."*

GAME IDEA: THE SHEPHERD SAYS

Similar to "Simon Says" but use "The Shepherd Says" instead. Only follow instructions that begin with "The Shepherd Says". Emphasise listening carefully to the right voice.

SHARE & PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Invite kids to thank Jesus for being our Good Shepherd.

Remind kids that: **Jesus is MY Shepherd, and I can Hear His Voice.**

HOOK

TELEPHONE

Prepare a "telephone" using paper cups and a string.

Have 1 kid put 1 cup to the ear, and another kid put the other cup to the mouth (the string should be fairly taut).

The kid with the cup to the mouth will say something for the other to hear. Then the kid who was hearing can respond by putting cup to mouth and say something, while the other kid puts the cup to the ear.

Encourage them to have a conversation this way, by taking turns to listen and talk to each other.

Conversation prompts:

"Tell your friend something you're thankful for today."

"Share something that made you happy this week."

"Ask your friend a question about their favourite Bible story."

Just like we can hear our friends through these special phones, we can talk to Jesus anytime and He can hear us!

Unlike our cup phones that need string to work, talking to Jesus works from anywhere!



LESSON

REVIEW

We are the sheep, and Jesus is our Good Shepherd. Like sheep need the shepherd, we need Jesus, our Good Shepherd to take care of us. Last week, we learnt that sheep can recognise the shepherd's voice. Similarly, we learnt that we can listen to and recognise Jesus' voice.

GIFT OF CONVERSATION

Do you know how special it is to be able to hear Jesus' voice? And do you know what's even more special? That we can talk to Jesus, and He can hear our voice! He wants to hear us, and He loves it when we spend time talking to Him.

What can we talk to Jesus about? *Anything!*

So, whatever we are going through, we can just call Jesus ... anytime, anywhere, in whatever circumstance.

When you're sad → Jesus comforts

When you're scared → Jesus protects

When you have a problem → Jesus helps

When you don't know what to do → Jesus guides

When you're happy → Jesus celebrates with you

When you're thankful → Jesus loves your praise

Philippians 4:6 says: *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."*

KEEP IT SIMPLE

When we pray, we do not need long prayers or to use complicated words. Prayer is just talking to Jesus with whatever words come from our hearts.

Do you know who prayed the shortest prayer in the Bible? *Peter*

The disciples were in a boat on the Lake of Galilee, and they were caught in a storm. Then, they saw Jesus walking on the water towards them. Peter called Jesus, "Lord, if it is you, tell me to come to you on the water." (Matthew 14:28)

Jesus said, "Come." Peter started walking on the water, but when he saw the wind, he started to sink, and he cried out, "**Lord, save me!**" Immediately, Jesus reached out His hand and caught him.

Let's time how long was Peter's prayer to Jesus for help. Time someone saying, "Lord, save me!" It's less than 2 seconds. Very easy to pray, right?

Teacher Julia had a friend whose prayer was even shorter than Peter's. When she was walking along the road, she saw two men on a motorbike coming towards her, and one of them wanted to snatch her handbag. She cried, "**Jesus!**" Suddenly, the men got distracted and went away without snatching her handbag.

PRAY FROM A POSITION OF REST

When we pray to Jesus, we do not have to beg or bargain with Him or persuade Him to listen to us. Jesus loves us, He wants to hear our prayers, and He only has the best for us. On the Cross, He has already paid for everything we need. So when we pray, we are reminding ourselves of what Jesus has already done for us. We can thank Him for what He has done, and receive what He has to give us. Even if His answer is not what we had expected or asked for, we can trust and know that it would be even better!

THANK YOU, JESUS ...

Let's sit in a circle now, and each of us say a simple prayer to Jesus (it can 1 line or 2). You can talk to Him about anything. Let's pray from a position of rest and speak His life into whatever we are going through.

"Thank you, Jesus, for ...":

- helping me with ____
- helping my parents with ____
- teaching me to be ____
- comforting me even though I am feeling ____
- providing for my ____

[prompt/guide the children in saying their prayers]

Option: After each child shares, everyone can say together: "Jesus hears you!"

Remember that Jesus loves to hear from you, no matter how you talk to Him. Prayer is simply a conversation with Someone who loves you very much!

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

MEMORY VERSE

Philippians 4:6 *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."*

RELATED CRAFT

e.g. Prayer Mailbox

Shoebox decorated like a mailbox, small papers and pencils, stickers or stamps

Children can write or draw simple prayers on the papers and "mail" them by inserting into the prayer mailbox.

Option: Teacher can pray over these prayers throughout the week

SHARE & PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

HOOK

WIND

Bring in a few lightweight items: feathers, tissue paper, small pieces of ribbon, bubble mixture

Have children take turns blowing on these items.

Can you see your breath? *No! But you can see what your breath does!"*

Show a video of a gentle wind blowing, e.g. <https://youtu.be/gdGRmzCQRcg?si=aK6SHoZI3wfHDJrC>

Just like we can't see the wind but can see what it does, we can't see the Holy Spirit but can feel and see how He works in our lives!"

LESSON

REVIEW

We are the sheep, and Jesus is our Good Shepherd. Like sheep need the shepherd, we need Jesus, our Good Shepherd to take care of us. We also learnt that sheep can recognise the shepherd's voice.

Similarly, we learnt that we can listen to and recognise Jesus' voice. We also learnt that we can talk to Jesus and go to Him in prayer. How can we do all that? Because when we believe in Jesus, we have His Holy Spirit!

SIMEON MOVED BY THE SPIRIT (Luke 2:22-35)

A long time ago, after baby Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph took Him to the temple church. The temple was a special place where people went to worship God.

There was an old man named Simeon who loved God very much. The **Holy Spirit** was with Simeon in a special way. One day, the **Holy Spirit** told Simeon something amazing! The **Holy Spirit** said, 'Simeon, you will not die until you see the special baby that God promised — the Savior of the world!'

Simeon believed what the **Holy Spirit** told him. He waited and waited for many years. He was very patient!

One day, the **Holy Spirit** gave Simeon a special feeling in his heart. The **Holy Spirit** said, 'Go to the temple today!' So Simeon went.

The temple was a busy place with lots of people and many babies. But the **Holy Spirit** helped Simeon know exactly which baby was Jesus! When Simeon saw baby Jesus, he was so happy! He gently took baby Jesus in his arms and thanked God.

Simeon said, 'Thank you, God! Now I've seen the Savior you promised! This baby will grow up to help people all over the world know about God's love.'

Mary and Joseph were surprised that Simeon knew their baby was so special. The **Holy Spirit** helped Simeon know things that nobody else knew!"

How did Simeon know which baby was Jesus? *The **Holy Spirit** showed him*

How did Simeon feel when he saw baby Jesus? *Happy, thankful*

Out of so many people, and babies, in the temple that day, the **Holy Spirit** helped Simeon recognise Jesus. The **Holy Spirit** can help us recognise when Jesus is working in our lives too!

[VIDEO: God's Story: Anna and Simeon <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=leN-xNrkiBo>]

JESUS GAVE US HIS HOLY SPIRIT

During Simeon's time, the Holy Spirit only spoke to certain people, e.g. prophets, kings, special individuals like Simeon, etc. He came and went as the wind. But today, after Jesus' death and resurrection, ALL of us who believe in Jesus have the Holy Spirit in us ... FOREVER!

Before Jesus went back to heaven, He made a special promise to His friends. He said, 'I'm not leaving you all alone. I'm going to send you a Helper — the **Holy Spirit!**'

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and remind you of all that I said to you". (John 14:26)

The Holy Spirit is God's wonderful gift to everyone who loves Jesus! Even though we can't see Him, the Holy Spirit is with us always!

Jesus said the Holy Spirit would:

- Help us remember the things Jesus taught us
- Comfort us when we're sad
- Guide us to make good choices
- Help us understand God's Word, the Bible
- Give us courage to tell others about Jesus

HEARING THE HOLY SPIRIT

Here are some ways the Holy Spirit Speaks to Us:

- Through the Bible
When we read the Bible, we can hear what Jesus said many, many years ago. At the same time, the Holy Spirit speaks quietly inside our hearts and minds and helps us understand what Jesus is saying to us today.
E.g. When you're scared at night and remember the story about Jesus calming the storm, that's the Holy Spirit reminding you that Jesus can calm your fears too!
- Through Our Feelings
Sometimes the Holy Spirit gives us special feelings inside. When you feel love for someone who is sad, or you feel like helping someone who is hurt — that might be the Holy Spirit speaking to your heart!
E.g. When you see someone who has no friends to play with, and you feel like you should go play with them — that's often the Holy Spirit helping you be kind like Jesus!"

- Through Other People

Sometimes the Holy Spirit uses other people to speak to us. When your mom or dad or teacher reminds you about Jesus' love, the Holy Spirit is working through them!

- Through Prayer

We've learnt about listening and talking to Jesus. Sometimes it may be difficult to know what God is telling us. We can ask the Holy Spirit to help us hear and understand.

Just remember:

- The Holy Spirit will never tell us to do something that would hurt ourselves or others
- The Holy Spirit always matches what the Bible says
- The Holy Spirit makes us more like Jesus — more loving, more kind, more helpful
- The Holy Spirit gives us peace, not worry

Share a testimony of how the Holy Spirit spoke to you. Invite the children to share their experience.



HEARING
Jesus

TNCC
CHILDREN'S
CHURCH

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN US

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

MEMORY VERSE

John 14:26 *"But the Helper, the **Holy Spirit** whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and remind you of all that I said to you".*

SHARE & PRAY FOR EACH OTHER