

“Livin’ The Sheep Life” - LESSON 1

“The Good Shepherd”

Main Focus:

As long as God leads me, I have everything I need.



Power Verse:

“The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.”

- Psalm 23:1



Whatchagaddaknow:

“The Lord Is My Shepherd,
So I Will Follow Him!”

LEADER’S INFO

When God decided to choose an animal to represent human beings, He chose a sheep. The reason He chose a sheep is because sheep are helpless animals. They can’t take care of themselves and by themselves they will just wander and be lost.

Sheep need a shepherd. Shepherds care for the sheep, lead them to green pastures, and care for their every need. Just like sheep need a shepherd, we need God to lead and guide us throughout this life.

In this lesson, the children will learn that God wants to be our Good Shepherd. He wants to lead us into the life He has planned for us. If we will follow Him, He will lead us into great things. We must choose to follow Him. The Good Shepherd won’t force us, but, if we choose to follow, we will never be disappointed.



“The Spark” Intro Video

“The Sheep Life”



“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

Alexis teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”



Character Skit

“Shep, The Sheep Shearer”



Offering Time



Game Time!

“Search The Perimeter”



Bible Story

“The Parable Of The Lost Sheep”



Power Verse Video

“The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.”

- Psalm 23:1



Call To Action

“The Good Shepherd”



Rewind!

Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

As long as God leads me, I have everything I need.



Power Verse:

“The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.”

- Psalm 23:1



Whatchagaddaknow:

“The Lord Is My Shepherd,
So I Will Follow Him!”

Lesson 1 Materials Needed:

“The Spark” Intro Video

- “Lesson 1 - The Spark” Intro Video

“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

- “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video
- “Whatchagaddaknow” Trigger Video

Character Skit

- “Shep, The Sheep Shearer” Theme Graphic/Music
- “Shep’s New Sheep Hairstyle 1” Graphic

Offering Time

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

Game Time!

- “Game Time!” Bumper Video
- “Search The Perimeter” Graphic
- 10 Simple Items To Hide
- Two Lists Of Items To Find
- A Way To Keep Time

Bible Story

- “The Good Shepherd” Graphics

Power Verse Video

- “Lesson 1 Power Verse” Video

Call To Action

- “The Good Shepherd” Graphics
- A Shepherd’s Crook

Rewind!

- “REWIND!” Bumper Video
- “REWIND!” Lesson 1 Graphics

Small Group Experience

- Bible Story Print Piece
- Cotton Balls
- Two Bowls
- Plastic Spoons
- Two Blindfolds
- A Way To Keep Time
- Psalm 23:1 Print Piece
- Pencils, Pens, Or Markers

“The Spark” Intro Video

“The Sheep Life”

“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

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Character Skit

“Shep, The Sheep Shearer”

Offering Time

Game Time!

“Search The Perimeter”

Bible Story

“The Parable Of The Lost Sheep”

Power Verse Video

“The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.”
- Psalm 23:1

Call To Action

“The Good Shepherd”

Rewind!

Review Game

Small Group Experience



Introduction to “The Spark” Intro Video

Leader: Hey, kids! Today, we are starting a new series called “Livin’ The Sheep Life!” It’s a really cool series all about Psalm 23. This is one of the most famous passages of the Bible.

Have you ever seen a sheep up close? *(allow response)* Aren’t they cute? With their puffy little wool coats and their cute little *(imitate a sheep sound)* baaaaaaa! They are so cute and cuddly.

You might be thinking, “Well what does a sheep have to do with me?” The fact is, in Psalm 23 we find that God used sheep to represent US - you and me! It’s true!

There is a lot we are going to learn from sheep in this series. But, first I want you to watch this video so you can understand this concept even more!

(play “The Spark - Intro Video Lesson 1”)

Leader: Here’s the thing—sheep need a shepherd to lead them, and that’s exactly how we are with God. We might think we can handle things on our own, but sometimes we get lost or make mistakes, just like sheep. We need someone to guide us, protect us, and help us make the right choices. And who better to do that than God, our Good Shepherd?

You’re going to learn all about “Livin’ The Sheep Life” in your lesson about “The Good Shepherd”, today. But, before we do that, we need to find out “Whatchagaddaknow.”

(play “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video)



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “Shep, The Sheep Shearer” *(He works on the farm shearing the sheep. When there are no sheep to shear, he might be looking to shear whatever he can find! He should dress like he works on a farm and carry shears [if you can get some].)*

Shep: *(Enters looking for sheep)* Heeeere sheepy sheepy! Heeere sheep!

Leader: Hello there! Uhh, you won’t find any sheep here. Just people!

Shep: No sheep? Well, that’s a shame. My name is Shep. Or you can call me Shep, the sheep shearer.

Leader: Welcome, Shep!

Shep: Thanks! Can I ask you something?

Leader: Yes, you can.

Shep: You got anything I can shear?

Leader: Do I have anything you can what?

Shep: Shear.

Leader: Shear? What is that?

Shep: It’s sheep talk. It’s when we cut off all their wool.

Leader: Oh, right. I don’t think I have anything you can shear. Why don’t you just shear some sheep?

Shep: I already sheared all my sheep for the week. Won’t have any more till next week.

Leader: Well, we don’t have any sheep here, Shep. Sorry.

Shep: I knew it wasn’t true!

Leader: What are you talking about?

Shep: I was told that this church was full of sheep! But I don’t see any sheep! I know what sheep look like. *(Make a funny bug-eyed face)* They look like that! And I know what they sound like, too! *(Very loud and annoying)* BAAAAAAA BAAAAAAA BAAAAAAA! BAAAAAAA!!!!!!

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CHARACTER SKIT

(Continued)

Leader: Oh my! Please stop.

Shep: Help me out, kids! Who can sound like a sheep? BAAAAAA! BAAAAAA! BAAAAAAA!

Leader: STOP IT! PLEASE!

Shep: Ain't that a pretty sound?

Leader: Only when it comes from a sheep!

Shep: I never said I was a professional sheep speaker. I'm a professional sheep shearer.

Leader: Back to your idea that a bunch of sheep are here. It's true. Sheep are here!

Shep: Well, where are they?

Leader: You are looking at them, Shep. We are God's sheep. He is our Shepherd. We are learning all about that in our lesson today. When we choose to follow Jesus, we become His sheep.

Shep: Cool! Would you mind if I showed you something AWESOME?

Leader: Sure!

Shep: Well, I love shearing sheep, if you couldn't tell! The other day, I tried out a new haircut for one of the sheep. Do you want to see it?

Leader: I'm a little worried... but sure.

Shep: Check it out! (show “Shep’s New Sheep Hairstyle 1” provided in Lesson 1 JPEGs) Isn't that a beauty! I gotta go try out my next new style! I'm Shep the Sheep Shearer, and I'll be baaaaaack (says it like a sheep)!



(EXITS WHILE HIS THEME MUSIC PLAYS)



GAME TIME

“Search The Perimeter”

Items Needed For Game:

Ten simple items to hide within the area in play; Two lists of items to find; A way to keep time

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Preparation:

Choose three boys and three girls to play this game. Have the items already hidden or have the players face away from the area in play and hide the items they will be searching for.

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How To Play:

Hand each team a list of items to find. When you say, “Go!” the teams will have one minute to find as many items on their list as possible. The teams are NOT allowed to sabotage the other team by grabbing an item that is not on their list or grabbing more of one item than they need. If they do, this will deduct points from their score at the end. At the end of one minute, have the teams show you what they found. Count up how many items from their list they found. You can either count each item as one point, assign each item a number of points before the game, or score them differently depending on how hidden they were. The team that has the most points at the end is the winner!



Bible Story

“The Good Shepherd”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 1; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

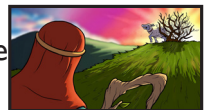
Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the story in Luke 15:1-7; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

Today’s Bible Story is actually a story that Jesus told to his disciples. It’s called a parable. A parable is a story about things that happen on Earth, but they have a special Heavenly meaning.

(*show pic*) In this parable, Jesus tells of a shepherd who had a hundred sheep. Every morning he took them from the fold, a place where sheep stay at night, on a hillside and led them to new, fresh pastures. The sheep loved to roam and eat all of the lush grass. Later in the day, the shepherd would take them to a quiet stream, or, if there wasn’t any stream nearby, he would draw water from a well for them to drink. At night the shepherd took the sheep back to the fold. Everyday the sheep followed the shepherd wherever he took them. He called them by name and they came to him. Every night he would count them to make sure they were all there.



One night, the shepherd discovered something terrible. He was supposed to have 100 sheep, but he discovered that there were only 99 sheep in the fold. That meant one little sheep was missing. Somehow it had strayed away and become lost. If the shepherd left it out there and didn’t go look for it, it would most likely be killed by some wild animals.



Since the shepherd knew that the sheep in the fold were protected by the gate, he left the other 99 sheep and went to find the one lost sheep. (*show pic*) He went searching through the dark, stormy night. He looked and looked in all of the places where he had led the sheep earlier in the day. It was a dangerous task, but the shepherd knew that this sheep was lost and would never find its way home.

(*show pic*) Suddenly, he looked in the distance and saw the lost sheep. It was stuck in a bush and could not get free. The shepherd freed the sheep, (*show pic*) then he put the little sheep on his shoulder and carried it back to the fold. He did not get mad at the sheep and punish it for running away. Instead, he rejoiced and was very happy that he had found the little sheep.

In this parable, the shepherd represents God. The sheep represent you, me, and all people. Jesus was showing the disciples that God cares for us so much that He is willing to do whatever it takes to rescue us from the sin of this world. He wants to be our shepherd and lead us in the life that He wants for us. In your Bible Lesson today, you are going to learn how God is our Good Shepherd.



Call To Action **“The Good Shepherd”**

Materials Needed:

The “The Good Shepherd” graphics; a shepherd’s crook

Preparation:

Begin with the slide titled, “The Good Shepherd”

The Message: *(title slide)*



Today, we began a new series called “Livin’ The Sheep Life.” In this series, we are looking at every single verse in one of the most famous chapters in the Bible - Psalm 23. Today’s verse says, *“The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.”* When you think of God being a Shepherd, that might seem very odd to you. You might find it strange that God refers to Himself as a Shepherd, and you might find it even stranger that God refers to us as His sheep. *(hold up the Shepherd’s crook as you talk)*

There is a very good reason that the Bible uses this illustration. Several places in the Bible, God refers to Himself as “The Good Shepherd.” Just like a shepherd leads, guides, and takes care of his sheep, God does the same for all of His children. You see, God is not just A shepherd...

God Wants To Be MY Shepherd *(slide)*



God created me. He created you. He has amazing plans for you. He wants to be YOUR Shepherd. He wants to be the one you follow throughout your life. He knows everything about you. He knows what you need, and...

When I Follow God, He Gives Me All I Need *(slide)*



Just like a sheep follows the shepherd to all of the best places to eat, sleep, and live, God will lead you to all the best things in this life. He gives you everything that you need. That’s why our first verse says, *“The Lord is my Shepherd, I have all that I need.”* When God is your shepherd, you don’t ever have to worry about the things you need. God provides everything for His sheep. Isn’t that awesome?

You might be saying, “Well, I had no idea that God wanted to be MY Shepherd. I want Him to provide for me! I want Him to lead me and guide me into the best places in life so that I have all that I want! How do I make sure this happens?” Well, I am so glad you asked. If you want be able to say with confidence, “The Lord is MY Shepherd, I have all that I need,” then you need to understand one thing...

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Call To Action *(Continued)*

I Must Choose To Make God My Shepherd *(slide)*



All you have to do is choose to follow the Lord as YOUR Shepherd. You can simply pray and talk to Him. Tell Him, “God, I thank You that You are The Good Shepherd. I recognize my need for a Shepherd. I don’t want to wander through life on my own. I want to follow *Your* plan for my life. I want You to provide all that I need. I trust You, God.” It’s as simple as that.

God is a Good Shepherd. He will not **FORCE** you to follow Him. If you choose to follow Him, however, you will follow Him into the greatest adventure of your life. You will follow Him into the best things in life. After all, He created you. He knows every detail about you. He wants to bless you, protect you, and be YOUR Shepherd.

ALTAR RESPONSE: *(play soft music)*

Allow the children who have not accepted Christ as their Savior an opportunity to choose to follow The Good Shepherd. Remind them that God wants them to **CHOOSE** to follow Him. He will love them and provide for them so that they can say, “The Lord is MY Shepherd, I have all that I need.”



Materials Needed:

“REWIND!” Lesson 1 Graphics; “REWIND!” Bumper Video

Preparation:

Play the “REWIND!” Bumper Video; Begin with the slide titled “REWIND!”; there is a slide for each question

1. Whatchagaddaknow today?

Answer: “The Lord Is My Shepherd, So I Will Follow Him!”

2. What chapter in the Bible are we learning from in this series?

Answer: Psalm 23

3. What animal does God compare His children to?

Answer: Sheep

4. How many sheep did the shepherd own in today’s Bible Story?

Answer: 100

5. What did he do when he noticed one of his sheep was missing?

Answer: Left the other 99 and went to find the one sheep

6. Who did the shepherd in the story represent?

Answer: God

7. According to our lesson today, “God Wants To Be _____ Shepherd.”

Answer: MY

8. According to our lesson today, “When I Follow God, He Gives Me _____.”

Answer: All I Need

9. According to our lesson today, “I Must _____ To Make God My Shepherd.”

Answer: Choose

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: Psalm 23:1