

EASTER 4

EASTER 4 Sunday 25th April 2021

John 10:11-18 and Psalm 23

Jesus is the Good Shepherd



Have you ever felt worried and afraid?

If you would like to, tell someone with you about that time.

Was there someone or something which helped you in those times? Maybe it was a good friend, or a special toy or a parent, grandparent or even a pet.

God knows that everyone sometimes feels afraid, and today we are going to learn about two Bible passages which tell us about a good shepherd.

Have you ever seen a shepherd calling their sheep? Here is a shepherd in Norway, calling his sheep on a very foggy day! Why do you think they come when they hear his voice?

https://youtu.be/Coq_grSFIn

A long time before Jesus was born on earth, someone called David wrote a PSALM (a bit like a song – but we don't know how the tune went!) about how God is our Good Shepherd.

It's a Psalm which is special to many people. It's Psalm 23 -you can read it in a Bible of with these images.

<https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/rg-psalm23/>

You could also sing the words with a new tune, like this.

<https://youtu.be/elQQayhpak>

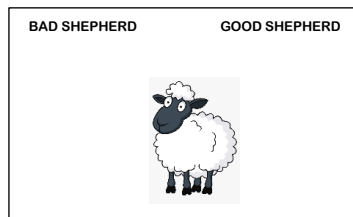


In the John 10:11-18, Jesus says he is the good shepherd. If the sheep are in danger, the good shepherd will protect them, even if that means his life is in danger.

A shepherd who doesn't care for the sheep just runs away, leaving the sheep to be hurt or killed. Look at the pictures below... who is the good shepherd? How do you know?



Fold a piece of paper in half and draw or stick a picture of a sheep in the middle sheep.



Draw or write the things a good and a bad shepherd might do in the space around the sheep.

Here are some of lines from Psalm 23

*The LORD is my shepherd;
I have everything I need.
2 He lets me rest in fields of green grass
and leads me to quiet pools of fresh
water.
3 He gives me new strength.
He guides me in the right paths,
as he has promised.
4 Even if I go through the deepest
darkness,
I will not be afraid, LORD,
for you are with me.*

Is there a line from the Psalm which helps you remember how much God cares for you?

You could write or ask someone to copy those words. Where could you keep this to help you when you feel alone or worried?

Dear Lord, thank you that you care for us like a good shepherd. Help us to follow you and trust you. Amen