

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: John 10:27-30

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus portrays himself as the Good Shepherd. This metaphor demonstrates the warm and loving care a shepherd has for the sheep and also shows that it is this warm loving care that Jesus has for us all. The image of the Good Shepherd is one of the central images of Jesus Christ, who keeps us from danger and seeks us out when we are lost.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Your child learned about the Good Shepherd, who cares for his sheep and surrounds them with love. Talk with your child about the care your family members give to each other. Display the Good Shepherd poster from your child's lesson booklet. Write the names of family members on the sheep, and paste them on the poster.

Promise (Grades K-1): Your child learned that Jesus promised in Sunday's Gospel that no one shall take his sheep from him. He is a Good Shepherd. Ask your child to teach the family how to play the game, "Safe or Scatter," and play it together. Talk about ways each of you helps to care for members of your family.

Good News (Grades 2-3): This week's Gospel tells us that Jesus cares for us all like a shepherd cares for the sheep. The class learned that we all belong to Jesus, and one sign that shows we belong to Jesus is the Sign of the Cross. Make sure that your home displays the crucifix. Kneeling before the crucifix is a good spot for a family night prayer, too. Ask your child to help the family remember to say a prayer of thanks before each meal this week. Ask your child about how the Sign of the Cross also applies to the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Venture (Grades 4-6): This week's Gospel of the Good Shepherd helped your youngster's class understand that good leaders know their followers and are responsible for others. Ask your young person to tell how leaders in the Church are shepherds. Let your son or daughter teach the family the "Who Makes Church Happen Today?" game, and play the game together. Be sure to have your youngster tell about King Christian as well as what happened in the city of Assisi, Italy, during World War II.

Visions (Grades 7-9): Your son or daughter learned how environmental issues affect us all. The class learned that just as Jesus is the Good Shepherd who cares for people, people have the duty to care for and "shepherd" creation. Talk about ways your family can care for creation, too. Ask your youngster to share what the class learned about the journeys of Saint Paul that spread the Good News throughout the Greek world. Be sure to ask your youngster to describe the Doctor of the Church the class learned about this week.

Pray Together

When you complete your conversation about the week's Gospel lesson, pray together a few verses of Psalm 23: "The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack. In green pastures he makes me lie down; to still waters he leads me; he restores my soul. Indeed, goodness and mercy will pursue me all the days of my life; I will dwell in the house of the Lord for endless days" (1-2, 6). You can find the full text of this psalm in your family Bible or in most missalettes.

