



Children's liturgy – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Welcome: Today we are going to hear Jesus tell a story. He calls himself the good shepherd, who cares for his sheep. This story shows us that Jesus knows and cares for all people. Let's think about how we can care for all people too, no matter where they are in the world.

Opening prayer: Loving God, you know us and care for us. Help us to remember that all people are loved by you no matter who they are, and to care for others in the world as you do. Amen.

Gospel: John 10:11-18

Jesus said:

"I am the good shepherd, who is willing to die for the sheep. When the hired man, who is not a shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees a wolf coming, he leaves the sheep and runs away; so the wolf snatches the sheep and scatters them. The hired man runs away because he is only a hired man and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd. As the Father knows me and I know the Father, in the same way I know my sheep and they know me. And I am willing to die for them. There are other sheep which belong to me that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them, too; they will listen to my voice, and they will become one flock with one shepherd.

"The Father loves me because I am willing to give up my life, in order that I may receive it back again. No one takes my life away from me. I give it up of my own free will. I have the right to give it up, and I have the right to take it back. This is what my Father has commanded me to do."

Gospel reflection: What do you remember about today's reading?

Jesus calls himself the good shepherd, who carefully looks after his sheep. Why do you think Jesus calls himself a shepherd?

Who do you think the sheep are that Jesus talks about in this story?

When he says sheep, Jesus means us, because he cares for us and for all people around the world.

How does it make you feel to know that Jesus loves and cares for you that much?

If a wolf came to attack the sheep in a field, someone who did not care about them would run away, and the sheep would scatter. But Jesus loves his sheep so much he is prepared to die to save them from danger!

Sometimes it can be very difficult to stop someone or something that we do not like or that we know is wrong. We might be afraid that we will be hurt or laughed at.

Have you ever felt like running away and hiding instead of standing up for someone? What happened? What did you do?

There are many things that happen in the world that are not right. Can you think of some? There are people around the world who have been forced to leave their homes because of fighting. There are people who do not have enough food to eat or clean water to drink. There are children who have to work and earn money to help support their families instead of going to school. Do you think this is fair? How does this make you feel?

Jesus wants us to follow his example. He asks us to care for all our brothers and sisters around the world, no matter who they are or where they come from. And he doesn't want us to run away when things are difficult. He wants us to stand up for what we believe in and know to be right.

Jesus loves everybody the same amount, no matter where in the world they are from. How do you think we can do the same and show our love for everybody throughout the world?

How will you stand up for what you know is right and show your love for your global family this week?

Activity

Complete the accompanying illustration. Remember to tell the people at home all that you have heard and thought about in today's liturgy and do one thing this week to show your love for your global family.

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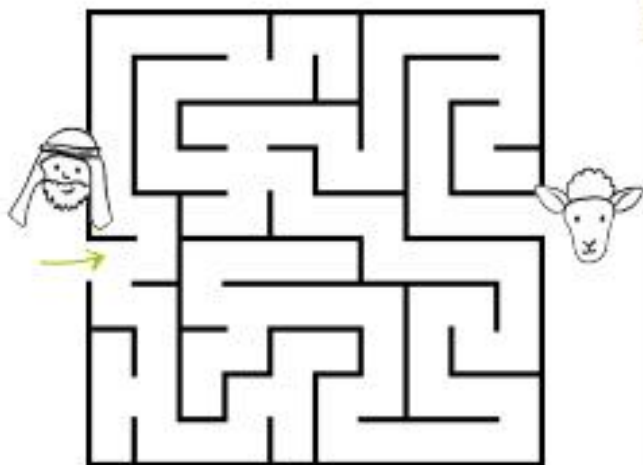
John 10:11-18

"I am the good shepherd"



Lost sheep:

Please help the shepherd find the lost sheep.



The good shepherd:

Inside the sheep in the picture above, draw some of the ways God cares for you. Inside and around the shepherd's crook below, write or draw some of the ways you can care for others here and around the world.

