

Sunday of the
3rd May

4th Sunday of
Easter

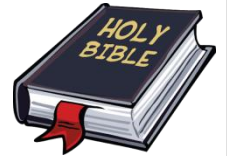
RE Home Learning



Sunday Gospel (John 10: 1-10)

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them. So Jesus spoke to them again: 'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them. I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'



Reflection

A shepherd is someone who looks after sheep. We don't see too many shepherds around these days, do we? They were very common when Jesus was alive though, and the Bible is full of shepherd stories – not to teach us about the real work of shepherds back then, but to help us understand something very important about Jesus.

Jesus is a special kind of shepherd. He doesn't have a flock of sheep – he has a flock of people – and we're them. We are Jesus' sheep!

That's kind of a funny thought, isn't it? We aren't really sheep of course, but the Bible helps us to understand that Jesus does the same things for us, that an actual shepherd does for his sheep.

You see, shepherds have three important jobs: herding, tending and protecting.

When we say that shepherds "herd," we mean that one of their jobs is to gather their sheep into groups. We gather together at church to learn about God and to celebrate being a part of his family. So that's one way.

Shepherds are also responsible for "tending" their sheep. This means they take care of them. They feed them and clean them and take care of them when they're sick. (Your parents are kind of like shepherds too!) Jesus doesn't come and feed us lunch or dinner, but he feeds our minds and he fills our hearts with love – so in that way he tends to us too.

Finally, shepherds have the important job of "protecting" their flocks. Just like a real shepherd would try to keep his sheep from danger, Jesus watches over us and protects us from harm.

That's why the Bible says "The Lord is my shepherd".

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for being our shepherd. We are so lucky to have you. You always protect us and make sure we have everything we need. You watch over us carefully day and night. You help us gather together as one big family in your name. You herd, tend and protect us. We thank-you. Amen.

Reflection Tasks

Nursery and Reception

Create your own shepherd bookmark like the one in the picture below. You can keep it in your Bible if you have one or in your favourite bed time story. That way, when you go to sleep or say your prayers, you will be reminded that God will always keep you safe and give you what you need.



Key Stage 1

Write a prayer that you can say to God thanking him for protecting you and keeping you safe. You could include pictures of sheep and write the names of people you would like God to protect on each sheep. This will remind you that we are the sheep and our Lord is the shepherd. Here's an example below:



Key Stage 2

Draw or paint a picture of Jesus as the shepherd or a shepherd's crook.



Then, have a think about what makes Jesus a good shepherd to us, His sheep. Write these words around the image of him. Stick it up somewhere in your bedroom. Whenever you begin to feel worried or sad you can look at it and it remind you that He will always care for you, loves you and will keep you safe.

