

Family Faith at Home



Make Sunday Come Alive All Week!

The Department of Youth Faith Formation wants to help you and your whole family explore God's Word in your lives. Each week we will be sending out this resource which can help you reflect on the upcoming Sunday readings with your entire family.

Here are some ideas on how to use this resource:

- Consider reading one of the mass readings each evening.
- Do the discussion questions after dinner one night.
- Watch the video on a different night.
- Pray the prayer each evening.



Fourth Sunday of Easter

Mass Readings:

Acts 4: 8-12

Psalm 118: 1, 8-9, 23-23, 28, 29

1 John 3: 1-2

John 10: 11-18

[Readings can also be found at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.](#)

Discuss

After reading the Sunday readings, discuss as a family:

1. In today's readings we see three images that describe God and his relationship with us: cornerstone, parent, and good shepherd. What are the qualities of each of these?
2. How does it make you feel to know that God loves you and calls you his child?
3. The Gospel says that the sheep know the voice of the Shepherd. How can we hear God's voice more clearly in our lives?

Share

Jesus refers to himself as the Good Shepherd. He says that there are two kinds of shepherds. Jesus explains that one kind of shepherd is paid for his time and if the sheep were in danger, he would run away to protect himself and not care about the safety of the sheep. Then he speaks of himself, as the Good Shepherd, who loves his sheep and would lay down his life for them. Even at night, he sleeps across the front of the sheepfold where His sheep are sleeping to keep them safe. If a wolf tried to enter the sheepfold where they are sleeping, the Good Shepherd would fight the wolf and maybe die rather than let the wolf harm his sheep. Jesus taught his disciples by his example. God has given us many good people in our lives to learn from as models for a good life. The story of the Good Shepherd certainly shows us that we all need good people to be examples of how to love and care for people every day.

Watch

For families with younger children [watch this video](#) on this Sunday's readings.

For families with older children, [listen to Pope Francis share this reflection on Jesus](#), the Good Shepherd.

Pray

Pray the 23rd Psalm (1-4) together as a family:

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil; for you are with me;

your rod and your staff— they comfort me.

Do

When you leave your home to go to Church this week, imagine that you see friends playing soccer or some other game, or sitting in lawn chairs talking and laughing, or riding bicycles. Try to come up with one sentence that you can use as a prayer to Jesus, the Good Shepherd, that you can be good example to them so that they may know that God loves them and they are His children too!



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