

The Gospel at Home

This Sunday's Gospel: John 10:11-18

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus compares himself to a good shepherd who knows and cares for his sheep. This image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd is one of the oldest images of Jesus in Christian art. The Good Shepherd cares for the world and demonstrates how everyone can care for the earth and its people.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): This week, your child played a good shepherd game called "Getting Home" in class. Invite your child to teach the family how to play the game. Talk about ways your family helps and cares for one another. Talk about ways Jesus is a Good Shepherd for your family.

Promise (Grades K-1): Your child learned about Jesus the Good Shepherd. They also learned to recognize people in their lives who care for them like shepherds. Talk about the ways your family cares for other people and how your child can learn more about care by watching over any pets you may have. Be sure to display the Good Shepherd project your child made in class.

Good News (Grades 2-3): While learning about Jesus the Good Shepherd, your child's class also learned how to care for the great gift of Creation. Talk together about ways your family is already caring for the earth and its resources. Talk, too, about ways you can do even better. Invite your child to teach your family the "We Care for Creation" game. Also discuss what a parish is and who leads the parish starting with the pastor.

Venture (Grades 4-6): While learning about Jesus the Good Shepherd, your child discovered that a shepherd knows, protects, and unites his flock. As part of understanding this Gospel, the class explored ways to protect the earth. Ask your child to share why Pope Francis added caring for Creation as a new Work of Mercy. Then talk about actions your family can do to be good shepherds by caring for the environment. Pick one or two actions and promise to help one another follow through. Fill out the Weekly Water Use Survey together as a family and see how your family works to conserve water.

Visions (Grades 7-9): This week, your son or daughter's class took a quiz to see how well they do caring for our world. They learned how Father Michael McGivney cared for immigrants to the United States. Discuss how this work fits into our care for God's Creation. They also explored Pope Francis actions of adding care for Creation as a Work of Mercy, plus he declared this Church year as the Year of Saint Joseph. The lesson includes a prayer for Saint Joseph that your family can pray together.

Pray Together

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" (Psalm 23:1-2, 6). You can find the full text of this psalm in your family Bible.

