

## Sunday Gospel Background

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus compares himself to a good shepherd who cares for and protects his sheep.

A shepherd leads his flock to pasture and keeps them safe. *Seeds* helps your child see how caring for others

is a form of shepherding. This is a good week to talk about the many people who care like shepherds for your family, such as grandparents, police officers, firefighters, healthcare workers, and others.

## Share Experiences

Check off the boxes as you complete each part of the lesson.

- Pray together:** "Jesus, thank you for all the people who love us and take care of us. Help us to show love and care back to them and to you. Amen."
- Activity • Who Cares for Us?** Talk about the many ways your family members take care of each other. Include ways your child cares for pets, siblings, toys, room, common areas of your home, clothes, etc. Point out that it is important to take care of something or someone in addition to being taken care of by others.

## Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Activity • Gospel Warm-Up** Invite your child to name some farm animals. **Ask:** How does a farmer take care of his cows? His pigs? His chickens? His sheep?
- Sunday Gospel • Jesus is the Good Shepherd. (page 1)** Tell your child that in Sunday's Gospel, Jesus talks about sheep. Where Jesus lived there were lots of sheep. People made clothes and warm blankets from their wool and drank the sheep's milk to become strong. People wanted to keep their sheep safe and healthy. The people who cared for the sheep are called shepherds.

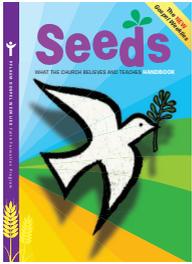
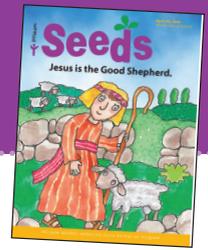
Jesus told his friends, "I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep, and my sheep know me. A good shepherd will give his life for the sheep. A hired shepherd runs away when a wolf comes. He only cares about getting paid. A good shepherd

stays with the sheep. A good shepherd loves the sheep. I know my sheep, and my sheep know me. In the same way, my Father knows me, and I know the Father. I will give my life for my sheep."

Explain that Jesus is our shepherd too. Jesus cares for us and keeps us safe. He wants us to trust him and follow him like sheep trust and follow their shepherd. We can also care for others and show this care by our loving actions. This is the way people will see Jesus' caring spirit is in us.

Look at the *Seeds* cover together. Point out how happy the sheep is to be near the shepherd. Help your child notice the boulders, the uneven ground, and the sheep grazing on the grass. Explain the shepherd's crook. This helps him not to stumble on the rocky hills. The hook at the top helps him reach and pull back a sheep that is in danger.

- Word of the Week • pastor (page 2)** Help your child find the Word of the Week on page 2. Share this definition: A *pastor* is a priest who leads a parish. Explain that the word *pastor* comes from the word that means "shepherd." Tell your child the name of your parish's pastor.



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 24 and look at the illustration together. Tell your child that we are like the sheep here with Jesus. Jesus will care for us because he loves us so much. Help your child write his or her name and your family members' names on the sheep. Then invite your child to color the sheep.

Say this prayer, asking your child to repeat each line after you say it. Begin and end with the Sign of the Cross.

*"Jesus, you are our shepherd. We are your sheep. Please guide us. Teach us what to do. Keep us safe. We will follow you. Thank you for taking care of us. Be with us now and forever. Amen."*

*Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Seeds, pages 2-3.*

## Live the Gospel

- **Activity • Getting Home. (pages 2-3)** Have your child open *Seeds* to the game on pages 2-3. Have your child point out the dangers on the path. Remind your child that a shepherd's job is to get all the sheep home safely. Have your child cut off the strip on the right (page 3), then cut apart the ten squares. To make game markers, cut out the sheep on pages 3 and 4, folding them in half so they can stand. Follow the directions to play the game with your child. The object is to get the sheep home to the sheep pen.
- **Activity • Shepherd Puzzle (page 4)** On the back of the game squares is a picture of a shepherd. Direct your child to turn the game pieces over and put together the puzzle of the shepherd.
- **Activity • Thank you, God. (page 4)** Have your child turn to page 4 of *Seeds* and look at the brother and sister praying at bedtime. Direct your child's attention to the other pictures and point out that someone is helping a child in each of them. **Ask:** What is the boy saying thanks for? What is the girl saying thanks for? What other helpers can we be thankful for?
- **Closing Prayer • Psalm 23** Invite your child to repeat these verses of Psalm 23 after you: The LORD is my shepherd. There is nothing I need. He leads me to quiet waters. He guides me along good paths. He is at my side to give me courage and comfort. Amen.



## Parent Resources

For weekly videos, assessments, and more, scan this code or go to [pflaumweeklies.com/family](https://pflaumweeklies.com/family)  
Visit [www.usccb.org/bible/readings](https://www.usccb.org/bible/readings) to read this Sunday's Scripture