

# Church at Home for Abridge

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020

## Activities for the whole family

John 10: 1-10

### Jesus calls himself The Good Shepherd



1. [Here](#) is today's Bible reading told as 'Godly Play' for all ages. It is in a reflective story style and takes about 19 minutes. It is designed to get you thinking for yourself about the meaning of what Jesus said. At the end, the storyteller suggests you can now decide what you would like to make, draw or create in response to the story, so have some paper, crayons/felts, crafts items, Playdoh™ or Lego™ available. Alternatively, you might like to re-enact the story with any farm animals and figures you have at home.
2. [Here](#) is a song to sing along to, all about Jesus being our Good Shepherd, using imagery from Psalm 23
3. **Talking together**
  - What are the sort of things a shepherd does for the sheep?
  - Can you tell a story about a time when God looked after you?

**Listening to his voice**

Jesus said that the sheep know and recognise the voice of the shepherd. Spend some time together as a family waiting and listening to God.

Write down any thoughts, feelings, or pictures you have in your mind and heart while you are listening.

There are lots of different ways that God can speak to us, the more we practice listening the better we can recognise the voice of the shepherd.

**A prayer to say together**

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of the Good Shepherd, that reminds us of how much you love us. Thank you that you feed and protect us and that your son Jesus came to die for us.

Thank you that we are not alone but are part of a flock, we pray today for all those in our church family, that you would protect them and provide for them.

We pray for all those who don't know you yet, that they would hear your voice and come to know you as their shepherd.

Amen

**Helping Older Children**

In these difficult times Older Children might be asking questions about what happens to people who die. They might also be asking about what happens to those who do not know Jesus.

Verse 7 reminds us that Jesus is 'the gate' – Jesus promised that anybody can receive his gift of salvation. When he died on the cross, he did it for everybody. There is a way for everybody to become a friend of God and receive his promise of eternal life in heaven with Him.

Verse 16 talks about other sheep joining the flock. The people that Jesus was speaking to were Jewish, but Jesus knew that his death on the cross would open a way for everybody to come to know him. We might not know if a friend or family member has accepted Jesus as their Saviour, but we can pray and trust God that his plan is for everybody. It is never too late for somebody to open their heart to God.

4. This part of John's Gospel story about Jesus is much loved by Christians. When Jesus described himself as a shepherd, it can help us feel safe and protected in his care. He is different from an ordinary shepherd who only really cares about the money for the job, not for the sheep. Jesus is also explaining ahead of time why he will go to the cross for us, like a good shepherd who will do anything to save his sheep from the dangerous wolves. Many artists have painted their idea of Jesus the good shepherd. Talk about the following pictures. Which do you like /dislike and why? I wonder what picture of Jesus as your shepherd you would draw?

