

Church at Home

22nd November 2020

Activities for the whole family

Matthew 25 : 31-46



1. Read through today's story in your Bible at home or find it [here](#)
2. [Here is a reflective version of the story](#) with wooden figures and wondering questions for the whole family
3. [This a version of the story from the musical Godspell](#). I wonder what you think of its alternative 'happy ending'?!
4. Here is a simple song related to today's story. It's easy to learn and well-known
[When I needed a neighbour were you there](#)
5. [A short, simple cartoon retelling of today's story](#)
6. **Thinking about the story together:**

Market Day in Israel long ago

There were lots of sheep; there were lots of goats; and they were all mixed up, so they needed to be separated off. Sheep to the right, goats to the left. It must have been a noisy business!

When Jesus saw this sort of thing happening in the markets of Capernaum or perhaps out on the hills above Nazareth, it was a sight that stayed with him. He saw it as an important picture of what must happen one day. He knew that finally, at the end of time, there would have to be a separation between the good and the bad in this world. Things at the moment are not the way God intended.

But even in all the confusion, God knows which people are doing good things and which are doing bad things. Even among those who trust in God and follow the way of Jesus, some are sadly doing bad things. And among those who have never even heard of God or who say they don't trust him, there are some, surprisingly, doing good things.

One day it will be a very challenging Market Day indeed and only God can sort this out. And as each sheep or goat is brought before the Good Shepherd, he knows which sheep is truly sheep and which goat is truly goat – and you know, you can sometimes be sheep on the outside but goat on the inside; or you can be goat on the outside but sheep on the inside. And this sometimes even takes the sheep and the goats by surprise!

Perhaps it went like this?! (to the traditional nursery rhyme tune of 'Baa baa black sheep')

Baa baa, black sheep, what good thing did you do?

'Me sir, unsure sir, what did I do?'

Did you care for the needy?

Welcome the alone?

Feed and clothe the poorest, and offer them a home?

*Bleat bleat, black goat, what good things did you do?
'Me sir, unsure sir, what did I do?'
Did you visit at the hospital?
Go to those in jail?
Did you share all your many things, with those beyond the pale?*

*Baa bleat, sheep and goats, what good things did you do?
'Us sir, unsure sir, what should we do?'
Care for the world I love
For all who have much less,
This is how to love The Lord, and your lives God will bless.*

7. Visual aid

To represent the ways of love talked about in the story set out: something to eat, a cup of water, a cup of tea (representing welcome), an item of clothing, a bandage and a visiting card.

8. Activity idea

This powerful story makes it clear that the way to love God, whom we cannot see, is to find creative ways of loving others, who we can see. Go through some charity magazines and find pictures of people who are hungry, thirsty, in need of clothes or hospitality, sick or in prison. Talk and pray about what would be the best ways of helping each of these people if we came across them in everyday life. Pin up the pictures and add the words of the highlighted verse below to create a poster for your home.

'Whenever you did it for any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did it for me' -
Matthew 25: 40

9. Talk about.....

Talk about these pictures and how they link to today's story. What might God be asking you and your family to do this week to show your love for Jesus?



