**The Good Shepherd**

Light a candle and remember the presence of God is with you.
Lay out the green felt underlay.

Jesus told us sacred stories called **parables**.
Sacred means that something is extra special.
Jesus was extra special.

The stories Jesus told were messages about how to love God and love each other.
Let us wonder how this parable helps us love. (pause)

*Place the pieces to match the diagram. (see insert)*

**Diagram**

- **Dark Blue Felt**
- **Light Blue Felt**
- **Green Felt Underlay**
- **Brown Strips—Sheepfold**

Those who love Jesus are like sheep who follow a Good Shepherd.

*Take a moment to place your finger on the shepherd.*

The Good Shepherd takes care of the sheep.

*Take a moment to place your finger on each sheep.*

Is this the same parable? No. You see, sometimes a sheep will get lost.

Take one of the sheep from the sheepfold and hide it under the dark blue felt.

The sheep will be in a lonely and scary place.

Move the Good Shepherd around the green felt looking in the green grass, by the blue pond. Have the Good Shepherd stop by the dark rocks and see the sheep.

The Good Shepherd will leave the other sheep together to help each other and go look for the one lost sheep.

Put the lost sheep from the rocks on the Good Shepherd.

Seeing the Good Shepherd will bring the sheep comfort as that sheep pulls us into his strong arms.

Move the Good Shepherd with the lost sheep back to the sheepfold. Put the lost sheep gently back in the sheepfold.

Often that sheep will be hurting, and the Good Shepherd will take it carefully home.

The Good Shepherd will help the sheep heal and find peace.
Wondering with God’s Story

I wonder...

... if the sheep have names?
... how the sheep felt about the dark rocks?
... if you have been lost?
... who the Good Shepherd could be?
... where this place is?
... long it takes the Good Shepherd to get back home?

Working with God’s Story

1. Have each person retell the story without reading the words. *Just use items.*

2. Find the story in your Bible and highlight it. You can also look in a Storybook Bible or online.

3. Ask the wondering questions more than once. Dinner? Car? Bedtime?

Check the “Weekly Faith FITness Plan” card.

Illustrator: Nicole Lapointe
Pictures: Worship Woodworks, worshipwoodworks.org

The Lost Sheep

Come close to this story/parable of Jesus.

Luke 15:4-6
(Common English Version)

If any of you has a hundred sheep, and one of them gets lost, what will you do? Won’t you leave the ninety-nine in the field and go look for the lost sheep until you find it? And when you find it, you will be so glad that you will put it on your shoulder and carry it home. Then you will call in your friends and neighbors and say, “Let’s celebrate! I’ve found my lost sheep.”
Working with the Story (Parable)

1. Lay out the figures and felt pieces as shown in the picture.
2. Lay the light blue pond, and dark navy spaces down on the green felt.
3. To build the sheepfold you need to layer the brown strips. Take turns with each strip until you have built a strong square sheepfold.
4. Place the sheep in the sheepfold.
5. The sheep need a way to get in and out of the sheepfold. Can you make a gate?
6. Prepare to place one of the sheep under the dark blue felt.

Now you are ready to share this parable.
When telling the parable, move the shepherd clockwise on the green felt. In this parable he goes by himself looking for the sheep.

1st go to the green grass
2nd the blue water,
3rd through the dark blue spaces.
4th Put the “lost” sheep on his shoulder and carry the sheep back into the sheepfold.

I wonder if the story has all it needs?
Can you tell the story differently?
Family Prayer
There are so many ways to pray. This week’s prayer challenge is to write a family prayer that shares with God about a time you felt scared and lost.

I/We felt scared and lost,
___________________________________
___________________________________
___________________________________
___________________________________
___________________________________
___________________________________

Amen.