



The Good Shepherd – Jesus is the Way Remember and Celebrate – The Feast of Unleavened Bread

John 10

God Statement: Jesus is Awesome

KEY VERSE: "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son. Anyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life. God did not send His Son into the world to judge the world. He sent His Son to save the world through Him."
(John 3:16-17, NIRV)

CHECK-IN

Classroom Teacher

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS: Jesus is the Way!

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how Jesus is the Way!

SAY: Have you ever seen a shepherd before? **Let kids respond.** What does a shepherd do? **Let a few kids respond.** That's right! A shepherd leads and protects sheep. What does it mean to protect or lead? **Let a few kids respond.** Protect means to keep safe and lead means to guide.

Who is our shepherd? **Let kids respond – Jesus/God!** That's right! Jesus is our shepherd! He leads us and helps us and wants to protect us! He is the way! We can follow Jesus and know that He is the way and He guides us. Sometimes we get lost just like little sheep, but Jesus never stops seeking us or looking for us. He wants us to follow Him. Jesus is the Way!

MAKE: Good Shepherd Handprint Craft

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

Supplies: sheep page, pom poms/cotton balls, fingerprint ink pad, markers, glue

Directions: Pass out one sheep page per child and have them take turns using the ink pad to use their finger prints to make legs for the sheep. Pass out a few cotton balls per child. Have them “fluff” or pull apart the cotton balls to add to the body of the sheep.

SAY: Jesus is the Good Shepherd! He is the Way! Let's create a special sheep picture to remind us of this great truth!



LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

WELCOME & EXPECTATIONS

Host

Depending on your age group, either find a designated space in your classroom or join the other classes for Large Group in the specified location.

As children enter into Large Group time, welcome and greet the children, telling them you're excited to have them joining this evening/morning.

Expectations Slide

Once everyone has found their seat, the host will use the Large Group expectations slide to go over the rules. Encourage various children to take turns reading the rules.

**** After Expectations, transition the power point to the "Worship" slide.****

REMEMBER AND CELEBRATE

Host

Briefly introduce the topic reminding kids that this weekend is Remember & Celebrate. Use this time to reference the "Feasts & Festivals" table on stage, talking about what it represents.

SAY: It's Remember & Celebrate weekend! Do you notice anything different on the stage today? That's right! This table – we call it the Feasts & Festivals table! Let's name some of the items we see on the table. **Use the laminated guide in the F&F Bin to discuss what some of the items represent.** Why do we have this special table out? In the Old Testament, God put into place a religious calendar of special events for the people of Israel to follow. Each year, there were seven unique and special feasts. There were four in the Spring and three in the Fall. The purpose of these feasts was for the Jewish people to celebrate their people's history, their faith, and the blessings God had given them. So why are these feasts that started so many hundreds and hundreds of years ago still important today? Through each of the feasts, God reveals a special story and shows the work of Jesus that is so important for each of our lives. Each feast can help us understand and appreciate that Jesus died for us, rose from the grave, and will come again one day! No matter how much time passes, the miracles of Jesus and the work He did for all of us are something to remember and celebrate.

KEY VERSE**Host**

Before you start worship, introduce/review the key Bible verse for the quarter. This is a great opportunity for you to talk about the importance of God's Word and encourage the kids to work on memorizing the verse each week.

****Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.****

***"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son. Anyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life. God did not send His Son into the world to judge the world. He sent His Son to save the world through Him."
(John 3:16-17, NIRV)***

**** After the Introduction, transition the power point to the Worship songs and invite the Worship Leader up front to lead the kids in worship.****

OPENING WORSHIP**Worship Leader**

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don't forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Kids may participate in the worship however they feel led. Encourage kids to find a way that helps them worship best but remind them that it's not time to goof off or talk to friends. If you have someone leading the worship up front, you can even invite a few kids to help.

TODAY'S WORSHIP SONGS:

- I Thank God
- Let the People Sing
- WRS: The Way
- Closing: The Lord is My Salvation

**** After Worship, transition the power point into the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day.****

BIBLE STORY**Lesson Video**

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: *The Good Shepherd – Jesus is the Way (Remember and Celebrate – The Feast of Unleavened Bread)*

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

****After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.****

WORSHIP RESPONSE

Host

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

DO: Jesus is the Way

Supplies: “The Way” worship song and motions in PowerPoint

SAY: Who here has ever seen a sheep before? **Let kids respond.** Does anyone know what the person who takes care of the sheep is called? **Let kids respond.** That’s right, a shepherd. The sheep can’t take care of themselves. They need someone to watch over them, protect them, and provide for them. Just like a sheep needs a shepherd to do all of that for them, we need Jesus to protect, take care of, and provide for us.

Jesus is our shepherd. He is the Good Shepherd. He protects us, provides for us, cares for us, and makes a way for us to have a relationship with God. We live in a fallen world that needs a Savior, and that’s Jesus. We are now going to transition into a time of worshipping Jesus because He is the Way.

DIRECTIONS: Pull up “The Way” on the PowerPoint. Encourage each child to find a space in the room where they can worship Him! Have each child sing out the words and do the hand motions to help remember the truth that He is the Way.

SAY: Jesus is the Way! He is the way to God. We can have a relationship with God through Him! As you go about your week remember the truth that Jesus is the Way.

Close time in prayer.

****After Worship Response, transition the power point to the Offering slides.****

OFFERING

Host

Before closing large group, take a moment to explain that every week, we provide an opportunity for our Woodmen Kids to participate in tithing. We believe God is our provider, and it is our privilege to give back to God what He has so graciously given us. Then, remind kids that if anyone brought an offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering.

****After Offering, transition the power point to the “Announcement” slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.****

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – Teacher Bags

Host

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.

SAY: We’ve spent the last three weeks thinking about how important teachers are and making teacher bags to say thank you and show our appreciation. Did you know that you can say thank you to your teachers **anytime** not just during our special mission's focus? Did you know that following classroom rules, listening to and respecting your teachers is also a way to say thank you? So, as you leave here today think of ways you can continue to show appreciation to your teachers in the community, now and next school year.

Let’s pray that God will help us to have gratitude and say thank you to our teachers for all they do!

Invite someone to pray.

****After Announcements, transition the power point to the “Blessing” slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.****

BLESSING

Host

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

SAY: *May you remember that Jesus is the Good Shepherd and He is the Way. He will lead you, care for you, and protect you.*

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

Pass out snacks during this time and break into a few small groups to chat together. Use the questions below as a guide to lead the conversation, but feel free to insert your own questions as the conversation develops.

****check for allergies before giving kids snacks****

Younger Kids 4-K:

The Small Group discussion is a chance for the kids to discuss what they've just learned and to challenge them to think deeper. If children need a quick break before doing questions, have them do some jumping jacks or exercises before doing small group questions to help them refocus.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?** (Jesus is the Way)

2. **Read/Recap today's story: John 10: 1-10**
 - **What feast did we learn about today?** (The Feast of Unleavened Bread)

 - **What does yeast often represent in the Bible?** (Sin)

 - **Like a shepherd watches over his sheep, who takes care of us, guides us, and keeps us safe?** (God)

3. **Today we learned that in the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the people of Israel were called to make and eat their bread without putting yeast in it. We also learned that yeast represents sin throughout the Bible. Can you think of any sin in your life that you could let go of that would help you follow Jesus better? Remember that He is your shepherd and by following Him you will be safe and cared for.** If possible, model an appropriate example from your own life or give an example of a time when you chose to let God lead you and how you saw that decision work for your good. Allow kids to share as they feel led and able.

Close small group in prayer. *Take a few minutes to share prayer requests as a group. This is a great time to write requests down on the prayer tags for leaders to take home!*

Older Kids 1st-4th:

Encourage the kids to utilize their personal Bibles or the classroom Bibles to read the Scripture as a group.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?** (Jesus is the Way)
2. **Read/Recap today's story: John 10: 1-10**
 - **What feast did we learn about today?** (The Feast of Unleavened Bread)
 - **What does yeast often represent in the Bible?** (Sin)
 - **Like a shepherd watches over his sheep, who takes care of us, guides us, and keeps us safe?** (God)
3. **Read Verses 7-10. Jesus is the Way, the one true Shepherd, and the gate to our salvation! We were dead in our sin, but God offered us Jesus to take the punishment for all our sin and offer us life. Through Jesus, we can have a better life than we could live without Him.**

Have you accepted God's gift of Jesus in your heart and in your life? If you haven't yet, today could be that day! What would that look like? Grab a teacher or leader and talk to them about it! You can acknowledge that Jesus died for your sins, that you believe He is God's son, and have new life through Him!

4. **Today we learned that in the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the people of Israel were called to make and eat their bread without putting yeast in it. We also learned that yeast represents sin throughout the Bible. Can you think of any sin in your life that you could let go of that would help you follow Jesus better? Remember that He is your shepherd and by following Him you will be safe and cared for.** If possible, model an appropriate example from your own life or give an example of a time when you chose to let God lead you and how you saw that decision work for your good. Allow kids to share as they feel led and able.

Close small group in prayer. *Take a few minutes to share prayer requests as a group. This is a great time to write requests down on the prayer tags for leaders to take home!*

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(10 minutes)

DISCUSS:

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

PLAY: New Testament Books of the Bible Cube Race

Supplies: 2 bags of New Testament books of the Bible cubes

Directions: Have children get into groups of 4-5. Each group will get a chance to race against another group. Give two groups block bags. Set a timer and see how quickly each team can finish stacking the blocks in order from beginning to end (the books of the New Testament need to be in order). Have children help their teams to remember the order of the books of the New Testament.

SAY: Jesus is the Way! Do you know one way we can learn more about God and follow Jesus and His Word? By reading the Bible! Let's play a game to see what we can remember about the New Testament books of the Bible!

CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.