



Getting to know Jesus Christ

Prayer

Lord Jesus.
you are our Good Shepherd.
We thank you for laying down your life for us,
your sheep,
so that we might have life to the full.
Help us to always hear your call
and follow where you lead.
Amen.



2. I am the Good Shepherd

I am the Good Shepherd

Introduction

The imagery of sheep and shepherds is quite common in the Bible. Throughout history God has shown his loving care by sending leaders or 'shepherds' to care for his people. In the Old Testament Moses and David are examples of godly Shepherds. The Gospels present the Good News that God has sent his own Son to be our Shepherd.

Reflecting on Our Experience

Unless we have spent time in the countryside the imagery of the Shepherd is possibly less familiar to us than to people who lived in previous times. However we all know people who represent God's loving, protecting and caring nature. Reflect on good examples of parents, grandparents and those who care for us in various ways. Can you think of a person who has been a 'Good Shepherd' to you or someone you know? What were they like?



Listening to Scripture

Choose one or more of the following Scripture passages to read and reflect on.

Psalm 22 (23) — *The Lord is my Shepherd*

Ezekiel 34: 11-16 — *God will Shepherd his people*

Luke 15: 4-7 — *The lost sheep*

John 10: 11-16 — *I am the Good Shepherd*

Reflecting and Sharing

Jesus is our Good Shepherd he calls each of us by name. Like the lost sheep we all have a tendency to wander along the paths of life and can end up going astray. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who searches for us and finds us. He leads us back to the God our loving Father and celebrates our coming home with great joy. On our journey of faith Jesus guides us and provides all we need and so with David we can make the comforting words of the 23rd Psalm our own; the Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

We now listen to a personal faith sharing where a catechist shares how they have known Jesus as a Good Shepherd in their life.

- How does this image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd speak to you in your life?
- Are you aware of God guiding you on your journey of faith like a Shepherd?
- Do you feel you have at times been lost on life's journey? In what ways?
- Which words, images or promises from the Scripture passage/s particularly spoke to your heart?

Spend some time sharing your reflections as a group.