

Fourth Sunday of Easter – year B

Preparation

Read over these: [Acts 4:5-12](#) and [John 10:11-18](#). Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump at you. Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yearb/easterb4.htm>

http://archive.episcopalchurch.org/lessonPlans/109452_115869_ENG_HTM.htm

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/good-shepherd.html>

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/east4kles.htm>

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/b/4Easter-b/A-4Easter-b.html>

<http://www.efree.mb.ca/lectionarypuzzles/in-bwss.htm#e4>

<http://children.cccm.com/NTSupportCurriculumPDF/246TheGoodSheperd.pdf>

Gathering

Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle and candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- White cloth
- Newsprint and markers
- Children's story books – bring some of your favourites

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you. Gather around the small table or at the end of one table. With the children place the cloth on the table. Have them help you place the candle and the Bible on the cloth. Light the candle.

Pray the following prayer together:

Thank you God for this new day! Alleluia!
Thank you Jesus for bringing new life! Alleluia!
Thank you Holy Spirit for coming to us! Alleluia!

Blow out the candle. Ask the children what their favourite story is. (*Wait for their responses.*) Show them the story books that you have and tell the children why they are your favourites. Then ask the children what their favourite story from the Bible is. (*Wait for their responses.*) Tell the children one of your favourite Bible stories. Explain to the children that in today's story two of Jesus' friends, Peter and John remember a story that Jesus told them in a difficult time for them.

Story Time

Materials needed

- A comfortable place to tell the story –around a table or on the floor with cushions

Peter and John had been to the temple in Jerusalem to worship with the other followers of Jesus. While they were there they had healed a man in the name of Jesus. The leaders of the temple were not very happy with what they had done. They were not happy that they were using Jesus' name to heal in. They thought Jesus was dead. The leaders decided that they had to arrest them. They kept them in the jail overnight.

In the jail Peter and John were talking. They were trying to figure out what to say the next day to the leaders of the temple. John said to Peter, "Do you remember what Jesus used to say to us?"

Peter looked at John blankly. John said, "Jesus told us that he is the Good Shepherd. The one who would look after his sheep. Remember Jesus told us that he would lay down his life for his sheep. That is just what he did. Jesus laid down his life and God brought him back to us. Remember Jesus told us that he would always know us because we are his sheep. That is what we have to tell the leaders tomorrow when they question us about how we healed that man."

Peter gave John a big smile. He said, "Thank you brother for reminding me about what Jesus said to us before he gave up his life for all of us. Now I know just what I have to say."

The next day, Peter and John were brought to the leaders of the temple. One of the leaders asked, "In whose name or by what power did you do this healing?"

Peter remembering what John had told him last night and remembering that Jesus is their Good Shepherd and remembering that Jesus had given them the Holy Spirit began to talk.

He told the temple leaders, "Rulers and elders of God's people, if you are questioning us because of the good deed that we did for this man now standing before you, then let it be known to all the people listening that he was healed because of the name of Jesus. The same Jesus who was put death on the cross and who God then rose from the dead on the third day. This same Jesus that you rejected has become God's cornerstone for all the people in the world. This same Jesus is the one who came into the world to show us all the way of God's healing love. This same Jesus is our Good Shepherd, the one who leads us to God."

All who were listening were astounded by the words coming out from Peter.

Response

Project Idea 1: Sheep Picture

Jesus as Good Shepherd is an image that the church has used a lot over the centuries. It is one that can be comforting for many people. This response will enable the children to begin to make connections with this image.

Materials needed

- card stock
- fine line markers
- sheep image at end of lesson
- cotton balls
- scissors
- glue sticks

Instructions

If you have younger children make copies of the sheep image at end of lesson so that each child has two or three sheep to work with. For older children just make one copy so that they can get the idea by looking at the image. Give everyone a piece of card stock and have them print across the top '**Jesus is the Good Shepherd**'. With the younger children help them to cut out their sheep and glue them onto the card stock where they want them to go. Then have them glue cotton balls onto their sheep to give them a 'woolly' look. If there is time let them use the markers to make it look their sheep are in a field. With the older children show them the sheep image and get them to draw two or three sheep onto their card stock. Like the younger children have them glue cotton balls onto their sheep to give them a 'woolly' look. Again if there is time encourage the children to use their markers to create a field scene for their sheep on the picture. Encourage them to put their pictures up at home somewhere where everyone can see them.

Project Idea 2: Cornerstone Block

Jesus as cornerstone was a key image for the early church and helped them to understand the significance of his resurrection in their faith journeys.

Materials needed

- small boxes with lids
- strong tape
- newsprint
- markers
- scissors and glue sticks
- construction paper
- Easter stickers

Instructions

Depending on the age of the children, either do the following ahead of time or with them. Tape down the lids onto the boxes. Help the children to cover their boxes with the newsprint using the glue and scissors. Have the children write on top of their boxes with the markers the following: '**Jesus is the cornerstone**'. Invite them to think about the images described in the story and decorate their cornerstone block with the construction paper, markers and stickers. As they are working explain to the children what a [cornerstone](#) is in a building. If you need more information, check out [this website](#). Invite the children to think about where they would like to put their cornerstones when they get them home.

Project Idea 3: Easter Egg Poster – Sheep

This is a continuation of a project started in the previous weeks and will be ongoing until the end of the Easter season.

Materials needed

- posters that the children started in previous weeks
- sheep image at end of lesson
- scissors
- glue sticks
- cotton balls
- black fine line markers

Instructions

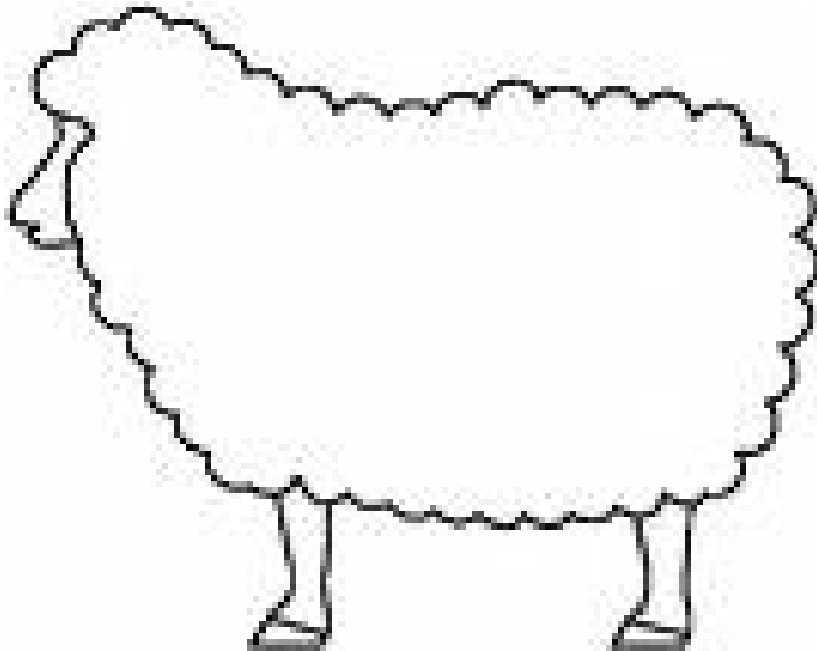
Make enough copies of the sheep image at the end of the lesson so that each child has one. Give each child their own poster. Have them cut out the sheep image and draw on a face with the black markers. Then get the children to glue their sheep onto the poster in the bottom left corner. Help them to spread glue around the inside of the sheep shape and then attach cotton balls onto the shape in order for the sheep to have a 'woolly' look. As they are working remind the children that Peter thinks about how Jesus is our Good Shepherd who looks after us and leads in God's way. When they are finished place their posters in a safe place for next week.

Closing

Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candles. Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

Alleluia! Thank you God for loving us.
Alleluia! Thank you Jesus for saving us.
Alleluia! Thank you Holy Spirit for being with us.
Amen.

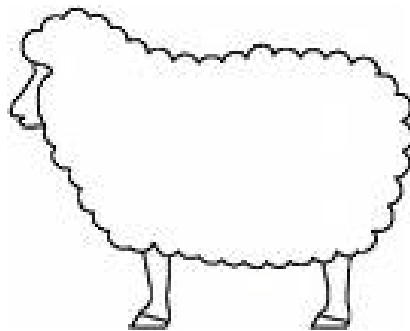
Sheep Image



For Project idea 1, use large image

**For Project idea 3 on a large sheet of paper,
use large image**

**For Project idea 3 on 8.5" × 11" or A4 paper,
use small image**



Egg Poster – Guideline

