

Key Stage 1 follow up RE lesson on the Good Shepherd

NC Links

- 1a - explore a range of religious stories and sacred writings and talk about their meanings

Reading: Begin by reading this passage about shepherds based on John 10

People once heard Jesus say: "I am the Good Shepherd. I know each of my sheep by their names, and they know me by the sound of my voice. And when I call them, they follow me. I take them to where there is good, green grass and to cool, clear water. I even show them the way through the dark places. They follow me, because they know my voice, and they know I care for them. Even if they are afraid, they have courage, because they know that I will show them the way. In the evening, I lead my sheep back to the safety of the sheepfold. I count them, to make sure that they are all safe. If even one of my sheep is missing, I will go to find that sheep. When I find that sheep, I will be so happy. I will not be angry, but I will take care of the sheep, picking up my sheep and carrying that sheep all the way home. And when all my sheep are safe in the sheepfold, my heart will be full of joy. But I cannot rejoice all alone. I will call all my friends and neighbours, and we will have a great feast.

There is also an ordinary shepherd who helps out with the sheep when the Good Shepherd is away. The ordinary shepherd wants to do a good job, but it is difficult because he doesn't know the sheep by name, and they don't know his voice. When he calls them, they scatter. And when the wolf comes, the ordinary shepherd runs away. But the Good Shepherd will stand between the wolf and the sheep, and the Good Shepherd will even give his life for the sheep.

Suggested questions:

1. What is a shepherd? *Someone who looks after sheep*
2. Describe what a sheep is like? *White, woolly, bleating. Shy and gentle animals which like to be kept together with other sheep in a flock. Not particularly clever and get themselves into all sorts of trouble unless someone is taking care of them.*
3. How does a shepherd look after his sheep? *Gives them food and water, leads them through dark places, leads them to the sheepfold in the evening, counts them to check they are all there, looks for lost sheep.*
4. How does the Good Shepherd feel when he knows all of his sheep are safe? *Really happy, his heart is full of joy and he celebrates with his friends.*
5. How is the Good Shepherd different from the ordinary shepherd? *The Good Shepherd knows his sheep by name and the sheep know his voice but the ordinary shepherd doesn't know the sheep.*
6. What does the ordinary shepherd do if a wolf comes? *Runs away*
7. What does the Good Shepherd do if a wolf comes? *Stands between the wolf and the sheep*
8. Who is this passage describing? Who is the Good Shepherd? *Jesus*

Activity:

Draw a scene of some hills and grassland with a shepherd. The shepherd can have a speech bubble coming from him quoting John 10 v 11 "I am the Good Shepherd, who will do anything for his sheep."

Each child then makes a sheep to go on the scene. The body can be made out of cotton wool and the face is the child's thumb print. When the sheep is stuck on the scene the child's name can be written next to the sheep.

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NC Links:

- 2f - that they belong to various groups and communities, such as family and school

1. Who cares for you?
2. How do they make you feel safe?

Make sure children know what it means to be 'in care'. Talk about children who are in care and go on to talk briefly about the Catholic Children's Society by reading this statement from the society:

The Catholic Children's Society will help to make children and young people's lives better. The Society will help to keep children safe and, where children have no-one to care for them, the Society will help them to find a home and a loving family.