



Jesus Cares for Us

Engage: Page 51

- ▶ Hide one piece from a jigsaw puzzle. Together put the puzzle together, noting the missing piece. After you find the piece, **ask:** *How does it feel to have found the missing piece?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Say:** *Jesus cares for us so much that he will look for us if we are lost. In this session we will learn how Jesus cares for us.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about how Jesus feels when one of us is lost and wanders away from him. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 52–53

- ▶ Discuss stories or nursery rhymes that teach a lesson, such as "The Boy Who Cried Wolf" or "The Little Red Hen." **Say:** *Jesus told us special stories to teach us important lessons. These stories are called parables.*
- ▶ Read aloud The Parable of the Lost Sheep on page 52. **Say:** *In this parable Jesus used the sheep to represent all of us. He wants us to know that God will do whatever it takes to keep us close to him. If we drift away, he will always reach out to help us come back to him.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Then invite your child to read it aloud with you.
- ▶ Read aloud Shepherding God's People on page 53. Point out the vocabulary word. **Say:** *Priests and deacons are a very important part of our Church. Religious sisters and brothers also serve the Church.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. **Say:** *God's love is unconditional no matter what; he is always going to love and guide us.*

Art Exploration: Page 243

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus as the Good Shepherd.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what the job of a shepherd involves.
- ▶ **Say:** *As a shepherd cares for his flock, Jesus cares for us.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 243. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Take turns reading aloud *Jesus, Our Shepherd*. **Say:** *Tell one way Jesus cares for us.*
Ask: *Why do you think a shepherd is a good way to describe Jesus? (He leads us, feeds, us, and protects us as a shepherd does for his sheep.)*
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud *The Good Shepherd* and complete the activity.
- ▶ Invite your child to make a poster with the caption *I Can Be Like Jesus*. Ask your child to draw pictures or cut out and glue magazine pictures to show ways he or she cares for others. Suggest that your child focus on actions that promote caring just as Jesus cares for us. Display the poster in your home.

Reflect: Pages 54–55

- ▶ Together look at page 54. **Ask:** *Why do you think the girl is holding a lamb?* Remind your child that every time he or she prays, the bond of love between your child and God gets stronger.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. **Say:** *Let's take some time to pray to God, our Good Shepherd. I will pray each line from Psalm 23. This psalm is found in the Bible.* Read aloud the psalm. Then have your child read it aloud. Read aloud the last paragraph. Close the special prayer by praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *God Is Our Shepherd* on page 55. **Ask:** *How is God like a good shepherd? (He cares for every person.) How can you be a good shepherd at school? (by caring for classmates, by making sure no one is left out)*
- ▶ Read aloud *Find the Lost Sheep*. Help your child work through the maze. **Say:** *The Good Shepherd cares for his sheep and watches over them.* **Ask:** *Who cares for us in a similar way? (God the Father)*

Respond: Page 56

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud *Ways of Being Like Jesus*. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can include others in his or her life.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the *With My Family* suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.