



Lesson Three

Jesus Cares for His People

Heart Preparation

Last week, the children learned that God enables us to be part of his family and gives us faith to trust in Jesus for forgiveness of sins. This week, they will discover that Jesus gently leads and cares for God's children, just as a good shepherd cares for his sheep.

Jesus calls God's sheep by name, leads and protects them, even giving his life for their salvation. All of this is possible because the Father, in his sovereign love and grace, chose them to be his own and placed them in his Son's care.

Yes, the "good shepherd" (John 10:11) knows his own. He speaks and they listen, following his leading in trustful obedience.

Jesus, our Shepherd, showed his love, not merely by laying down his life for us, but by risking his life to the point of death when our lives were threatened by sin, wrath, etc. The point of the contrast between Jesus and the hired hand is that simply dying is not proof of love, but dying to save the life of the sheep is. Pray that God will give you and your children the desire and opportunity to respond to his loving voice with trust and faithful obedience.

Bible Background

In Bible lands, shepherds were familiar figures. They spent much of their time caring for their animals. In the Old Testament, God is often portrayed as the Shepherd of Israel, who watches over and tends his flock. Jesus gives his life for and leads God's chosen flock scattered throughout the world (John 10:16; Galatians 3:28).

In Hebrews 13:20 the Lord Jesus is described as "that great Shepherd of the sheep" in a wonderful benediction:

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.



Bible Truth

Jesus cares for God's people, and they follow him in love and obedience.

Scripture

John 10:1–18



Lesson Focus

Follow Jesus and thank him for his loving care.

Goals for the Children

- Explain how a shepherd cares for his sheep.
- Thank Jesus for dying for our sins.
- Praise Jesus for his loving care.
- Obey Jesus' commands.



Memory Minute

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son.
1 John 4:10a