

**FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER  
EASTER  
JOHN 10:11–18**

For the rest of the Easter Season, we have stories Jesus shared before the crucifixion. Now, in the light of the resurrection, they take on a powerful new value. Jesus is portrayed as the Good Shepherd. Even though sheep are not part of our lives like sheep were for the people who first heard these stories, we can resonate to the concept of a shepherd who knows his own and whose own know him. We belong to this shepherd. Yet, if, as Jesus tells us, he has other sheep that are not of this fold that he must bring also, we have work to do – work given to us by the Good Shepherd.

## THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Jesus wanted the people to know that he loves them and he wants to help take care of them. Lots of the people he was talking to had sheep that they took care of.

Have any of you ever patted a sheep? Ever seen one? Jesus told the people that he would not run away and leave the sheep all alone. Jesus said he would protect the sheep from any creature that might hurt the sheep. And Jesus said there were lots of other sheep that needed to come be with Jesus. Jesus told the people that his sheep can recognize his voice when he calls them and he recognizes their voices when they call him.

### Reflection Questions:

1. What is a hired hand? (Someone paid to do a job and with no say as to how it is done.)
2. What is the difference Jesus makes between the Good Shepherd and the hired hand?
3. Jesus says he knows his “own” and his “own” know him. Do any of you have a dog that will come when you call the dog?
4. Who are some of the people we listen to and who take care of us?
5. Who are some of the people who listen to us and who we take care of?

## ACTIVITIES

1. Compose a journal entry to describe a time when you were lost and how you were found.
2. Make you own flock of sheet(directions provided.)
3. Draw a shepherd and surround him with sheep; then give each sheep a name of someone who stays with you.