

Sunday Gospel Background

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells us that he is a shepherd and we are his sheep. Sheep know their shepherd's voice and follow him. A shepherd takes care of his flock of sheep, making sure that they have food, water, and security. Young children are used to being cared for. They know they are supposed to listen to those who are caring for them, as we all should listen to Jesus, who cares for us. They can also care in simple ways—for Creation, pets, younger siblings, and sometimes older adults. This *Seeds* lesson helps your child reflect on how we receive and give care.

Share Experiences

Check off the boxes as you complete each part of the lesson.

- Pray together:** Invite your child to respond "Amen. Alleluia!" after each line of this prayer: Jesus is my shepherd. / He gives me everything I need to be happy. / He gives me strength and talents. / He gives me people to take care of me. / He is always with me. / I thank and praise Jesus every day.
- Story • Who takes care of Toby? (page 3)** Have your child open to page 3. Read the title. **Ask:** Where is Toby? Invite your child to listen to the story to find out.

When Toby woke up, he knew it was going to be a good day. He ate breakfast, got dressed, and made his bed. Then he

went to the kitchen and watched his mom pack his lunch. Mom waved from the door as Toby walked to the corner.

Have your child put one finger on Mom's picture and then follow the dotted line. **Ask:** Whom does Toby meet at the corner? How does the crossing guard take care of Toby?

Direct your child to follow the dotted line to the next picture. **Ask:** When Toby plays on the school playground, who is there? How does the coach take care of Toby? What game do you think Toby and his friends play?

When Toby walks home from school, he sees a friend. Peter is walking his bike on the sidewalk because he doesn't want to run into someone who's walking on the sidewalk. Toby says "Hi" to Peter, and Peter says, "How are you doing, Toby?" Toby says: "I had a good day. I learned a lot about kickball." Peter says: "I

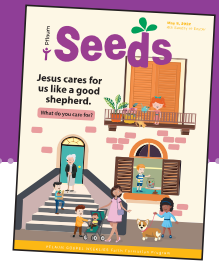
played baseball and almost hit a home run. See you, Toby!" Toby hears his dog, Buddy, barking from his yard. Buddy is excited that Toby's home. Toby hugs Buddy, and Buddy licks Toby's face. Toby brings Buddy into the house to give him a treat.

Ask: Did you find out who Toby is? How do Peter and Buddy take care of Toby? How does Toby take care of Buddy? Let's name all the people who cared for us today. Help your child recognize the many people who care for the members of your family.

- Activity • What do you care for? (page 1)** Invite your child to tell you how each child in the picture is taking care of someone or something. **Ask:** How do we show care for each other in our family?

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus is our Good Shepherd. (page 2)** Share this Gospel:



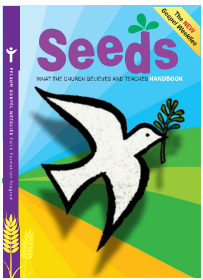
One day, Jesus was in the Temple. People gathered around him and said, "Please tell us if you are the Messiah."

Jesus said: "I told you before, but you did not believe me. The good works I do in God my Father's name show you who I am. But you do not believe because you are not my sheep."

The people asked, "What do you mean?"

Jesus answered: "My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I will give them life in Heaven where they will live forever. No one can take my sheep away from me."

Turn to page 2 and look at the picture of Jesus. Ask: What might Jesus be thinking? How does the lamb he is holding feel?



- Open the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 24. Read aloud the title and the words at the top. Tell your child we are like the sheep with Jesus. Jesus cares for our family. He knows our names. Help your child write your family members' names on the sheep. Invite your child to repeat each line of this prayer after you: Jesus, you are our shepherd. / We are your sheep. / Please guide us. / Teach us what to do. / Keep us safe. / We will follow you. / Amen.

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to *Seeds*, page 3.

- **Word of the Week • Reconciliation (page 3)** Write out the word *Reconciliation*. Share this definition: *Reconciliation celebrates God's forgiveness of our unloving choices.* Explain that when we make unloving choices, we get far away from Jesus. He forgives us and brings us back to him like a shepherd brings his sheep back to the pen.

Live the Gospel

- **Activity • Jesus takes care of ____ (pages 2-4).** Have your child remove the strip of sheep from page 3 by cutting on the black line. Then cut the sheep apart. Print your child's name on the back of one of the sheep. Help your child tape the sheep near the shepherd on page 2. Tape across the top so your child can lift up the sheep and read the name underneath. Ask your child what other names you can write on the remaining sheep and tape them to the picture.
- **Activity • Seeds Certificate (page 4)** Have your child turn the Toby page over to find a certificate to remember your *Seeds* time. Read aloud the sentences and directions. Help your child fill in the spaces. Put in your name as Catechist.
- **Closing Prayer** Present the certificate to your child. Pray: "Jesus is our shepherd. He takes care of us" (Psalm 23). Invite your child to repeat the lines on the certificate after you. End with "Amen. Alleluia!"



Parent Resources

For weekly videos, assessments, and more, scan this code or go to pflaumweeklies.com/family
Visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings to read this Sunday's Scripture