

Topic: The Good Shepherd goes after the missing sheep

Family Small Group for FHC Cycle Week 2.14 (February 2, 2025)

Lesson Overview for Parents

Hello! Hope you and your family enjoyed our Jeopardy Review family lesson last week. This week's family lesson takes us into our Reconciliation book. We will learn that God, the Good Shepherd cares about each and every one of us. And we are like sheep - we tend to wander, we sin. But God LOVES each and every one of us so much that he will go after us. He does not want us to be lost.

1. Opening Prayer

Pray the prayer below together or ask your student to pray it out loud.

2. Mass and Mass Journal

Did your student write in their mass journal this weekend?

Reminder: *Students receive a small prize each time they write in their mass journal using their Mass Journal Bingo card. Students receive a bigger prize each time they complete a ROW on their Mass Journal Bingo card.*

Prayer

God our Father, help me to remember that you will always look for me when I am lost. Thank you for offering me your salvation.

Amen

Spend a minute or two talking about what your student wrote in their mass journal.

If you haven't gone to mass yet, look at their Mass Journal Bingo card and help them select 1 prompt that they will use this week.

3. Activity - Part 1

Let's play Hide and Seek because we are sheep!

Ask your student if they have ever been lost, like being in a crowd or a store and they were separated from you. What was it like being found? Being lost can be scary. But God always finds us!

Let's play some Hide and Seek to get the lesson started. Gather the whole family for this!

- Pick someone to be the Shepherd.
- The rest of you are sheep. Can we hear some sheep sounds anyone?
- Let the sheep scatter and get lost.
- Shepherd, gather them all in! When you find them, be sure to give them a big hug and rejoice that they are found! Remind them that God loves them so much he will go after them when they are lost.
- Play a couple of times, using different Shepherds each time.

4. Sacrament Book Readings

*Remember, you are your student's first and most important Catechist. You have options on how you cover the material below. You can read the information in the books below yourself and then talk about it with your student. You can read it together like story time and talk about it as you read it. We are asking you to focus on **parts** of the chapter. If you would like to go through the entire chapter with your student, you are welcome to do that too.*

Grades 1-3

Book: *God's Gift Reconciliation*

Step 1: Chapter 6, pages 52-53 – Read the story about the Good Shepherd OR read the story in your family bible (Matthew 18:12-14). *Ask your student:* What did the shepherd do when he realized that one of his sheep was missing? How did the Shepherd feel when he found the lost sheep? Have your student put the stickers on the pages as you read the story.

Step 2: Chapter 6, page 54 – Be sure to read “I listen to God’s Word”. Read the rest of the page. Spend a minute talking about the things we don’t do that are sins. We can sin by not doing something that we should do too! Discuss some examples: not standing up for someone who is being treated wrongly, not doing our chores, not going to mass on Sunday, etc.

Step 3 Chapter 6, page 56 – Read the page. Ask your student: When can we go to confession? How often can we go to confession?

Grades 4-6

Book: *Loyola Intermediate Reconciliation and Eucharist*

Step 1: Read God’s Word – Read Matthew 18:10-14.

Step 2: Chapter 8, page 35– Read the page. Discuss: Did you know about all the things a shepherd has to do to take care of his sheep? What does this story tell us about God?

Step 3: Chapter 8, page 36 - Read the page. Discuss: What does conversion mean? What does reconciliation do?

Step 4: Chapter 8, page 37 - Read the page. Discuss: What is the difference between a sin of commission and a sin of omission. Give examples of each.

4. OPTIONAL Formed Video

Before clicking the link below, log into your FORMED account or be ready with your userid/password to log in after clicking the link below.

*This is an **optional** video. It is a 20 minute Benjamin Cello video about the Good Shepherd. If your student enjoys videos please enjoy it with them but it is optional.*

<https://watch.formed.org/videos/episode-3-the-little-lost-lamb>

6. Activity - Part 2

Review the steps for going to Confession. If you have your “My Guide to Reconciliation” booklet, use that. If you don’t, use the Rite of Reconciliation Steps sheet on the family lesson webpage.

7. Story Time

Now, prepare for our next Sanctuary Lesson on February 9. You may want to schedule time to read this story later in the week and then reread it before February 9. Be sure to put it on your calendar or make a note on your frig so you don’t forget. Read the bible story below in your Illustrated Children’s Bible.

Story Name: *The Sermon on the Mount*
Pages: 212-217