Preschool–Grade 5

Good Shepherd Craft

The sheep follow him · John 10:1–18 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



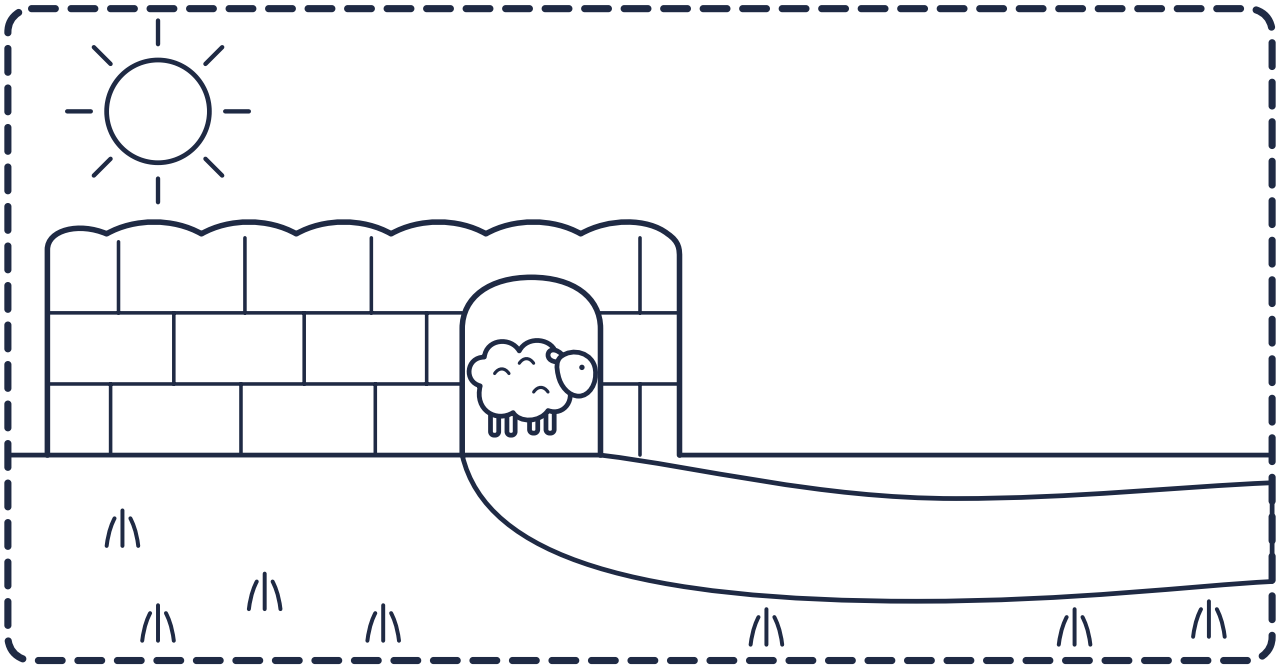
Harder

Both levels are a card with a light blue sky, a yellow sun, the gray stone wall of a sheepfold with a brown door that opens and shuts, and a light brown path across a green field. Three sheep follow the path away from the door (John 10:3–4), and one more sheep waits behind the door. Medium (left): the card, the door and the three sheep. Harder (right): the same, plus a red heart flap in the sky that lifts to show an empty brown cross, because the good shepherd gave His life for the sheep (10:11).

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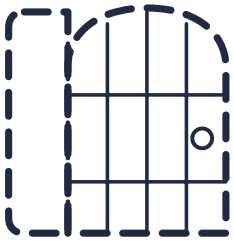
Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



card: sky light blue, sun yellow, wall gray, field green, path light brown.
Leave the doorway white. Every sheep: head and legs black, wool white.

door: color it brown



fold the glue tab back



3 sheep: write a name on the back of each one

I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.
John 10:11 (KJV) · glue this strip on the back of the card

Color each piece the way its label says. Cut out the card, the door, the three sheep and the verse strip. Write a name on the back of each sheep. You also need a glue stick.

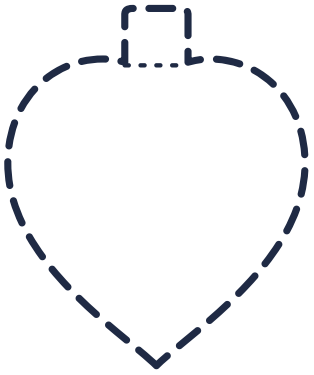
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Name: _____

✂ Harder level



cross: color it brown,
cut on the dashed line



heart flap: color it red,
fold the glue tab back on the dotted line

How to make the harder level

1. Make the card, the door, the three sheep and the verse strip from page 2 first.
2. Color the cross brown and cut it out on the dashed line.
3. Glue the cross in the sky on the right side of the card, above the path.
4. Color the heart red and cut it out with its glue tab. Fold the tab back on the dotted line. Glue only the tab in the sky just above the cross, so the heart hangs down over the cross like a flap and hides it.
5. Tell it: "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep" (John 10:11). Lift the heart. Jesus gave His life for us on the cross. The cross is empty, because He had power to take His life again (10:18): He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:4)!

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/good-shepherd-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), crayons or markers in light blue, yellow, gray, green, light brown, brown and black, a pencil, scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child and a red crayon.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out the card, the door, the three sheep and the verse strip ahead of time, and write each child's name on the back of one sheep.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's pieces and write the child's name on the back of one sheep. Kids color the card and the sheep and glue the sheep on the path. Glue the door on for them, and the verse strip on the back.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, cut, write the names and glue. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the card like the medium level, then glue the empty cross from page 3 in the sky and cover it with the red heart flap (John 10:11, 10:18). This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** color the sky light blue, the sun yellow, the sheepfold wall gray, the field green and the path light brown. Leave the doorway white, and color the sheep in the doorway: head and legs black, wool white. Color the door brown.
2. **Sheep:** color the three sheep pieces the same way: head and legs black, wool white.
3. **Cut:** cut out the card, the door, the three sheep and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
4. **Names:** write your name on the back of one sheep. Write the names of people you love on the backs of the other two.
5. **Door:** fold the glue tab of the door back on the dotted line. Glue the tab on the wall just left of the doorway, so the door opens and shuts over the doorway.
6. **Glue:** glue the three sheep on the path in a row, all walking away from the door toward the right.
7. **Verse:** glue the verse strip on the back of the card, and read it together.
8. **Tell it:** shut the door. The shepherd comes in by the door (John 10:2). He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out (10:3). Open the door: one more sheep is coming out! He goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice (10:4).

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Questions to ask while kids work

- Point to the door. Who comes in by the door of the sheepfold? *(The shepherd of the sheep, John 10:2)*
- Who opens the door for him? *(The porter, the man who keeps the door, 10:3)*
- Turn a sheep over and read the name. How does the shepherd call his sheep? *(By name, 10:3)*
- Why do the sheep follow the shepherd? *(They know his voice, 10:4)*
- Would the sheep follow a stranger? *(No. They flee from him, because they know not the voice of strangers, 10:5)*
- Point to the green field. What did Jesus say His sheep will find? *(Pasture, 10:9)*
- What does the hireling do when he sees the wolf coming? *(He leaves the sheep and runs away, 10:12)*
- What does the good shepherd give for the sheep? *(His life, 10:11)*

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained: sheepfold** and **fold** mean a place with a wall around it where the sheep are kept; **porter** means the man who keeps the door; **putteth forth** means brings out; **stranger** means someone the sheep don't know; **pasture** means a field of grass for the sheep to eat; **hireling** means a worker who is paid to watch sheep that are not his own; **fleeth** means runs away; **giveth** means gives.
- **What the Bible says:** Jesus told about the door of the sheepfold, the porter, the shepherd who calls his own sheep by name, and the sheep who follow him (John 10:1–5). Then He said, "I am the door" (10:7, 10:9) and "I am the good shepherd" (10:11, 10:14). The Bible doesn't describe how the sheepfold looked. The stone wall, the door's shape, the sun, the path, the heart and the colors are the craft's simple picture of the story.
- **No person is drawn, and never Jesus:** the craft shows the sheepfold and the sheep. The shepherd is not drawn.
- **The names on the sheep:** "he calleth his own sheep by name" (John 10:3). Jesus knows each child by name. Writing the names on the back keeps the front of the craft a picture.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything, write the names on the backs and glue the doors on ahead of time. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Let every child shut the door, open it again and say, "The sheep follow him!"
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Good Shepherd lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/good-shepherd.

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