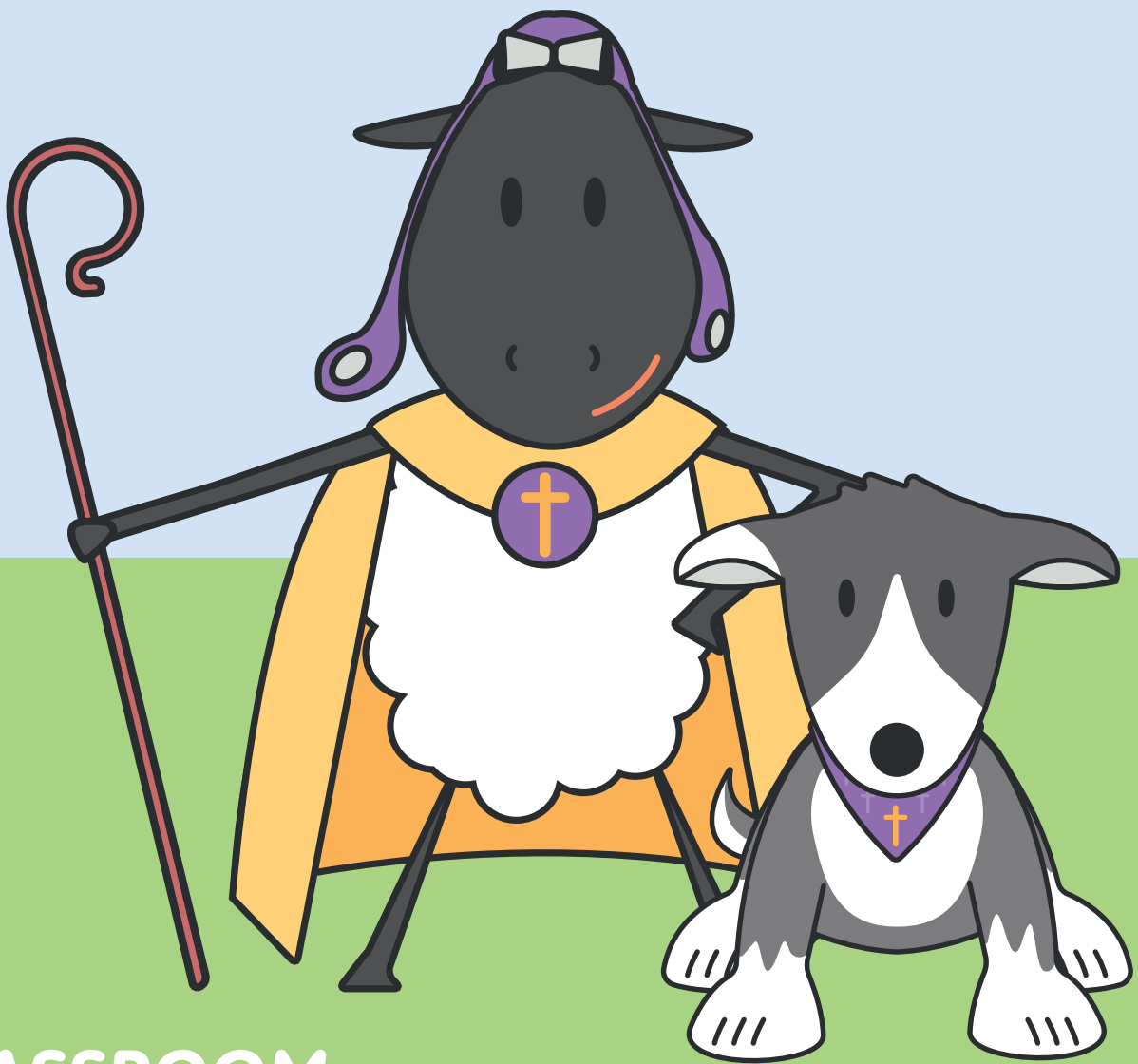


THE GOOD SHEPHERD APPEAL



CLASSROOM LITURGY PACK

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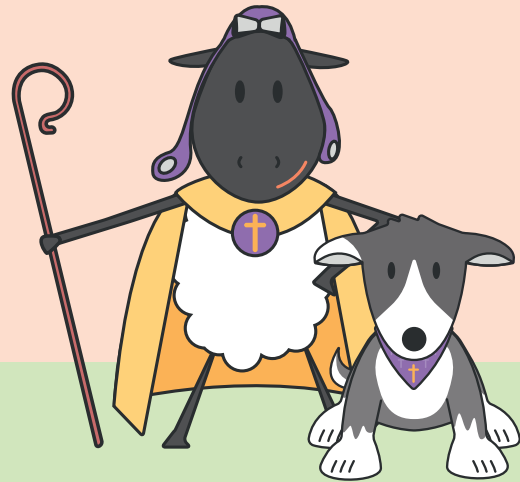
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THINGS YOU WILL NEED

- bible
- candle
- pens
- pencils
- card
- paper
- reflective music



CREATE A FOCAL POINT

- This could be images and symbols to help the children focus and pay attention.
- This could be a poster of the Good Shepherd, pictures of sheep or pictures of children helping others.
- Seat the children in an arrangement that is conducive to prayer and allow them some room to draw or write on card.
- Have quiet, reflective music playing in the background.
- Place the bible open at John's Gospel and light the candle.
- Ask the children to think about people in their lives who love them and take care of them.

OPENING PRAYER *Invite a child to read the opening prayer*

Lord Jesus,
You are our Good Shepherd.
We have come to listen to you as you tell us the story of how you love and care for us.
Help us listen and open our hearts to hear your special story. **Amen.**

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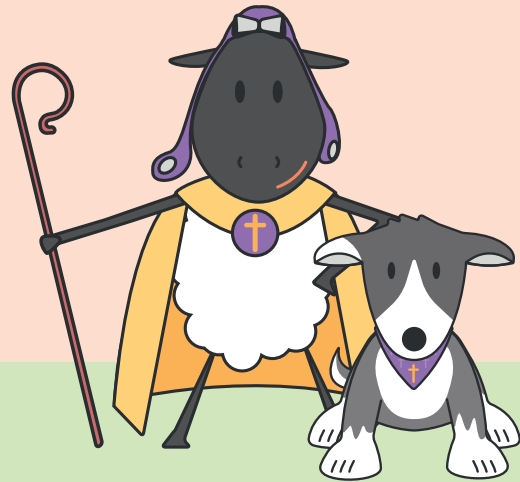
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TEACHER

Today we are going to read from the Gospel the story of the Good Shepherd.

Invite one or two children to read from the Gospel.



READING

**A reading from the Gospel of St John
(themes from the bible retold for children)**

One day Jesus said:

“Sheep listen to their own shepherd and they will follow him. He can even call them one by one for he knows their names.

When they have all come out he walks in front of them. And they all follow because they know the sound of his voice.

Of course they would never follow a stranger because they would not know the sound of his voice.

They would run away from him if he told them to follow him.”

Jesus then said:

“I am the Good Shepherd.
And I’m a good shepherd.
I know all my sheep, every one of them and they know me.”

Amen.

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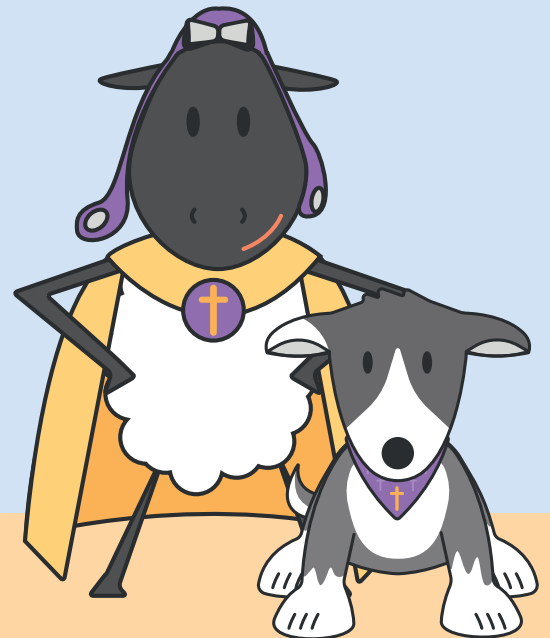
TEACHER

Today we have heard about the Good Shepherd and his sheep.

Many of us live in towns and cities and we don't see many sheep. Sheep are beautiful animals made by God.

Shepherds look after sheep and protect them from getting lost or getting into trouble with other animals.

If you look at sheep you will notice that they have their nose to the ground; usually they are eating grass and don't seem to notice what's around them. If one of the sheep wanders away the shepherd uses his crook to guide the lost sheep back to the flock.



A SHEPHERD'S CROOK

Does anyone know what a shepherd's crook looks like?

The crook is a long stick with a curved shape at one end that fits snugly around the sheep's neck.

Do you know anyone who has a crook?

Archbishop Malcolm and Bishop Tom have crooks that they bring to mass. (You could suggest that younger children draw a shepherd's crook)

Can you think of any other things a shepherd might do with a crook?

Sometimes a shepherd can shoo away other animals that creep up on the sheep. In the bible, Jesus explained to his friends that he was a Good Shepherd. He came to look after us, he is our guide and teacher.

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Sheep and shepherds have a very close relationship. Sheep will only follow their own shepherd. They recognise his voice and will not follow a stranger.

WHO DO YOU KNOW IS LIKE A SHEPHERD? CARING FOR YOU AND KEEPING YOU SAFE.

At the beginning of this liturgy everyone was asked to think about people in their lives who love and care for them. Encourage the children to think of the ways these people have shown love and concern and how they have cared for them in some way.

Ask the children to write down who is their Good Shepherd. Who looks out for them and who helps them.

Suggest to the children that they choose something they can do to say thank you to the people they are thinking about.

Invite the children in turn to stand up and say the name of the person or people they have been thinking about and wish to thank.

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WHAT CAN YOU DO TODAY TO BE LIKE A GOOD SHEPHERD?

Perhaps you can play with someone who is on their own at playtime?
Maybe you could listen carefully to your teacher?

Invite the children to write down what they can do to be like the Good Shepherd.

CONCLUSION

Today we have heard about Jesus, our Good Shepherd. We have heard how he loves and cares for each one of us in a very special way. We have thought about the people who help and care for us.

Let us give thanks to everyone who helps us.

CHILDREN'S RESPONSE

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, we thank you.

TEACHER

As our prayer time comes to an end, let each one of us remember how special we are to Jesus, our Good Shepherd. Let us remember how much he loves and cares for us. We think about all those people who love and care for us too.

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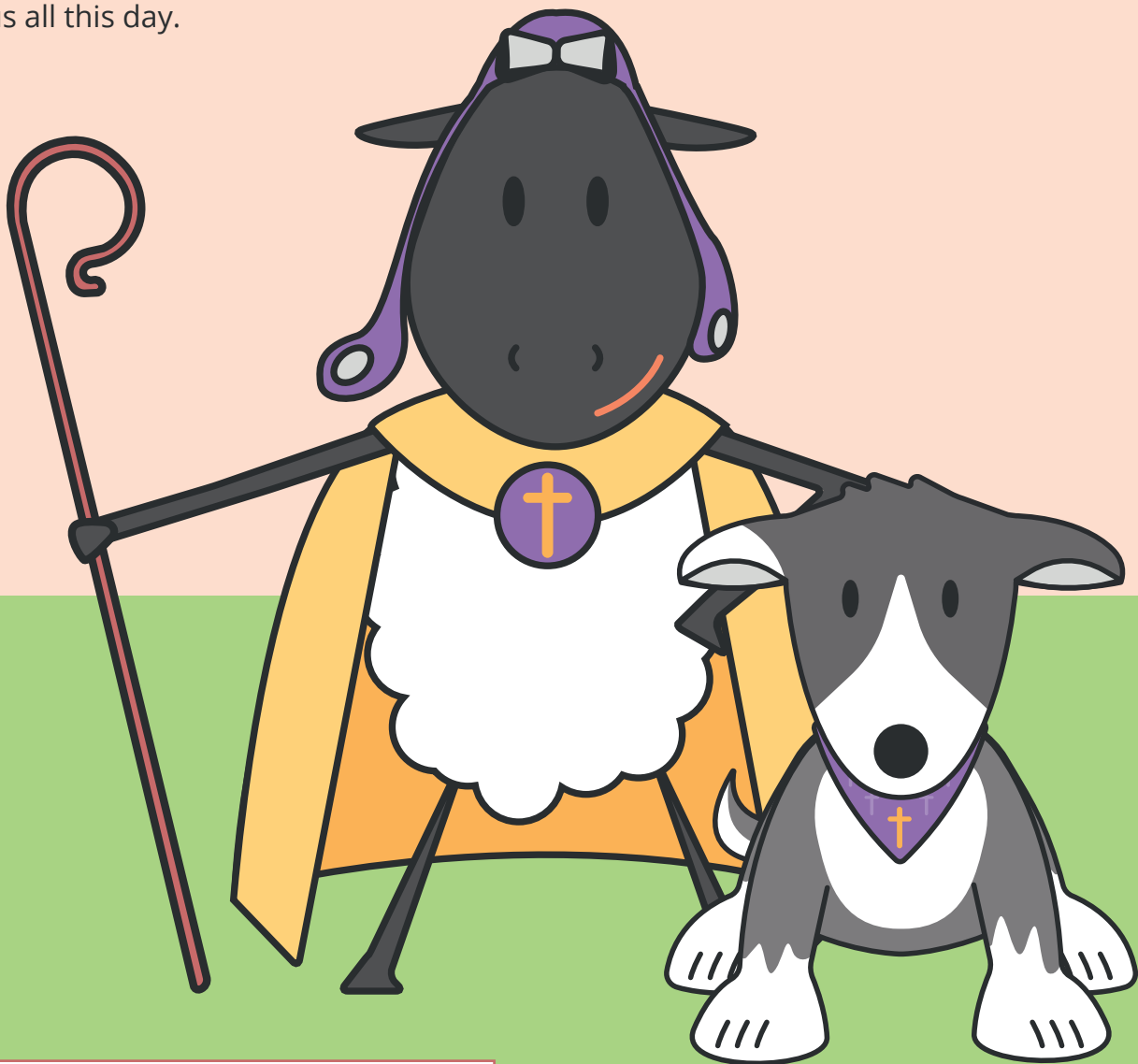


CLOSING PRAYER

(together)

Lord Jesus,
You are the Good Shepherd who loves
and cares for each one of us.
Help us always to be grateful for all the
people who love and care for us.
Bless us all this day.

Amen.



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