

We Are...Sheep

STAFF PRAYER & WELCOME

All Staff
Pre-class

- Pray for today's class.
- Arrange tables and chairs.
- Have music playing.
- Welcome and interact with kids as they arrive.

MEMORY WORK – LARGE GROUP

_____ (Teacher)

____:____ - ____:____
(Pre-class – first 15 min.)

Do some of the following activities:

- **Books of the Bible**
Choose from “Books of the Bible Memorization Activities.” Allow time for students to quote the names of the books of the Old or New Testament in order when they have mastered them.
- **Review “Jesus Is...A through Z” (if you recently taught this curriculum)**
 - Sing “Jesus Is A-Z” song (sing a verse and then see if kids can remember those adjectives and titles without looking).
 - Play A-M or N-Z Bingo.
 - Play the memory game with A-Z cards.
- **Memory Work Songs**
Sing various A-Z memory verses that have been set to familiar tunes.

MEMORY WORK – SMALL GROUP

All Staff

____:____ - ____:____
(10 min.)

Break into smaller groups, one teacher with each group, and work with students on individualized memory work.

- For our class, students memorize a set of six verses at a time, quoting them one at a time, then two at a time, then three at a time, etc., until they are ready to test on all six at once.
- Remind students that there will be prizes for those who score 80 percent or better when they test. (Reward prizes in front of entire class so that everyone can congratulate students on their accomplishments and be encouraged.)
- Remind students that during Bible Memory Work time, everyone must be working! Encourage them to work together to memorize verses, as opposed to distracting each other.
- Have coloring pages available to occupy visitors (or younger/distracted students) while their classmates are quoting verses.

WORSHIP

_____ (Teacher)

____:____ - ____:____
(10 min.)

Lead the kids in two or three songs, some energetic, some worshipful. You can tie the songs into today's topic or just sing what's on your heart.

REVIEW

_____ (Teacher)

____:____ - ____:____
(10 min.)

For this first lesson of the “We Are...” curriculum, use the “Jesus is...A through Z Review Questions” or questions from whatever curriculum you last completed. Choose a review activity (just remember you only have 10 minutes):

- Toss out candy for correct answers.
- Form teams and play Bible baseball.
- Form teams and play tic-tac-toe. (A correct answer allows a team to place its “X” or “O.”)
- Play musical chairs. If student answers a question correctly, he/she is NOT out.

RULES & PRAYER

(Teacher)

- Go over rules (Class Promises) by calling on students to read/remember the rules.
- Pray together for the class. (Take individual requests from students as time allows.)

____:____ - ____:____
(5 min.)

BIBLE LESSON

(Teacher)

Teacher Prep: Read Psalm 100, Psalm 23, John 10:1-16, and Luke 15:4-6. Pray for anointing.

____:____ - ____:____
(20 min.)

Items Needed: “We Are…” display board; stuffed sheep; “Sheep” Visual, and “Characteristics of Sheep” Visual.

Introduction

During the first part of the year we learned about Jesus’ titles and adjectives from A through Z. Refer to the “Jesus is…A through Z” board.

Now we are learning about some of the things that the Bible says we Christians are. Refer to the “We Are…” display board.

Listen for something that we are in this verse from Psalm 100: Read Psalm 100:3 from your Bible.

- **What are we?** (*His people, the sheep of His pasture*)

Show stuffed sheep.

- **What do you know about sheep?** (*allow a few quick responses*)

Show “Characteristics of Sheep” Visual and go over the information on it.

Lesson

Let’s talk about some ways Christians are like sheep:

Sheep need plenty of grass and clean water. Show “Sheep” Visual and read Psalm 23:1-2 from it.

- **What does “I shall not want” mean?** (*I won’t lack anything; I’ll have everything I need*)
- **Do these sheep look like they have everything they need?** (*they look pretty satisfied ☺*)
- **What kinds of things does Jesus provide for us?** (*everything in the world He created for us: food, water, shelter, sun, rain, etc., as well as family, friends, church, books, toys, clothes, love, joy, peace, etc., etc.*)

Have a student attach the “Sheep” visual to the “We Are…” display board.

Sheep are not the most intelligent animals, and they are scared of shadows.

Listen to another verse from Psalm 23. Read Psalm 23:4 from your Bible.

- **When Jesus’ sheep walk through the valley of the shadow of death, why aren’t they afraid?** (*because He is with them; His rod and staff comfort them*)
- **What are the Shepherd’s rod and staff, and what are they used for?** (*rod—a stick; staff—a stick with a hook on the end; these are used to fight off danger, prod sheep, and pull them back from danger*)

Jesus is with us, even at the scariest and saddest of times, so we don’t need to be afraid.

Sheep are **followers**. Remember, they will sometimes follow whoever happens to move first. However, Jesus' sheep are not like this. Listen to these verses from John 10. **Read John 10:4-5 from your Bible.**

- **What keeps Jesus' sheep from following a stranger?** (*they know Jesus' voice and will only follow Him, not a stranger*)
- **How can we get to know Jesus' voice?** (*by having conversations [listening and talking] with Him through prayer, by reading His Words in the Bible, by listening to teaching and preaching of His Word*)

Sheep are **not very good at protecting themselves**. We need Jesus, our Good Shepherd, to protect us. Listen to what He said in John 10. **Read John 10:11-12 from your Bible.**

- **What is a hireling?** (*someone hired to watch over the sheep*)
- **Why does the hireling run away?** (*he sees the wolf coming, and he doesn't love the sheep like the Good Shepherd does*)
- **What does the Good Shepherd do when He sees the wolf coming?** (*He protects His sheep, He even gives His life [dies] for the sheep*)

Jesus loves us—His sheep—so much that He gave His life to save us!

Life Application

Sheep get **stressed when separated** from their flock. Remember the story Jesus told about the man with 100 sheep?

- **If just 1 of the 100 sheep went missing, what would the shepherd do?** (*leave the 99 and go find the 1 lost sheep*)
- **What does he do when he finds the lost sheep?** (*carries it home rejoicing, and asks others to rejoice with him*)

The shepherd is not angry or scolding or punishing the lost sheep. He is so happy to find him!

When you sin, don't hide from Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Pray. Ask Him to forgive you. He is so happy to welcome you back to the flock!

Let's pray right now. If you need Jesus to forgive you, ask. Then let's all rejoice and thank Him for forgiving our sins, loving us, and protecting us—for being our Good Shepherd.

Lead the kids in prayer in response to the lesson.

BIBLE SKILLS

_____ (Teacher)

_____ (10 min.)

Goal: Familiarize students with the structure of the Bible and how to locate specific verses. Use a board with the books of the Bible and their divisions to assist with this.

Use the "Books of the Bible" display board to point things out as you ask these questions:

- **How many books are in the Bible?** (66)
- **How many books are in the Old Testament?** (39 [3 letters in the word "Old" and 9 letters in the word "Testament"])
- **How many books are in the New Testament?** (27 [3 letters in the word "New" × 9 letters in the word "Testament" = 27])
- **What are the Old Testament books of Poetry?** (*Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon*)

Hand out Bibles. Remind students to handle Bibles carefully and to help younger students find verses.

Open your Bible in the middle. You should be in a book of Poetry. Find the 23rd Psalm.

- Who wrote this Psalm? (*David*)
- How many verses does the Psalm have? (*6*)

This is a familiar Psalm that many people memorize. Let's read the entire Psalm together (or if you have it memorized, you can quote it). (*Have students read this Psalm out loud.*)

- Why was David a good person to write a Psalm about the LORD being his shepherd? (*David himself was a shepherd; when a lion or a bear attacked his flock, he rescued the lambs and killed the lion or bear; he knew what it takes to be a good shepherd*)

Now find John 10:14. (*Have a student read this verse out loud.*)

Jesus has a lot of sheep, but He knows and loves each of you individually.

Choose a couple of students to carefully collect the Bibles.

ACTIVITY/SNACK

(Teacher)

____:____ - ____:____
(10-15 min.)

Supplies: Large and small marshmallows
 Small pretzel sticks
 Plates
 Napkins
 Drinks

Have kids make sheep out of their marshmallows and pretzel sticks. (**Make an example before class to show them.**) Before eating their "sheep," kids should say a prayer of thanks for their snack.

Remind kids: **Jesus is the Good Shepherd, and we are His sheep. He provides for us, watches over us, protects us, and saves us.**