**The Good Shepherd**

**Faith Focus:** Jesus cares for us like a shepherd cares for his sheep.

**OUTCOMES**
- Tell the story of the lost sheep.
- Describe how Jesus is the Good Shepherd.
- Explain that God’s love is greater than any sin.

**About the Artist**
Philippe de Champaigne (1602–1674) was born in Brussels, Belgium. He first studied art with landscape painter Jacques Fouquières. In 1621 he moved to Paris, where he decorated the Palais du Luxembourg. He later worked for the Queen Mother—Marie de Médicis—and Cardinal Richelieu. One of his most celebrated paintings, made in 1662 and seen today at the Louvre, shows his daughter with Mother-Superior Catherine-Agnes Arnault. He made this work as an ex-voto, an offering in fulfillment of a vow, after his paralyzed daughter was miraculously cured at the nunnery of Port-Royal. Philippe de Champaigne died in Paris at the age of 72.

**Art-facts** The Good Shepherd is an example of Baroque art. Baroque art is a term that describes an artistic style that originated in Rome at the beginning of the 17th century. The Council of Trent (1545–1563) had strongly advocated pictorial clarity and narrative relevance in religious art. Baroque developed as a result. For the Catholic Church, the Baroque style inspired architecture and artwork that worked together to invite the faithful to more fully experience Scripture and the lives of the saints. Over time Baroque artwork and buildings could be seen throughout Europe, in both Catholic and secular settings. In this painting Jesus is portrayed as the Good Shepherd who carries home the lost lamb.

**Art Print 22** shows Jesus as the Good Shepherd. What can you do when you have turned away from God and are lost? If time allows, complete one or more of the activities below.

**Expression: Movement**
- **Role-Play the Story** Organize children into groups of five or six. Choose one child from each group to be the shepherd. Give each group a few minutes to develop a skit that portrays the story of the lost sheep. Invite each group to act out its story. Then pray together: Dear Jesus, thank you for guiding us, protecting us, and leading us home. Amen.
  - **Time:** 15 minutes
  - **Materials:** none

**Expression: Art Studio**
- **God Is Our Shepherd** Invite children to make a lamb from air-dry clay. Have them add small balls of clay to represent wool and use plastic utensils or small art tools to add details. Say: Show your family your sheep. Tell the story of the lost sheep. Describe how Jesus is our shepherd.
  - **Time:** 15 minutes
  - **Materials:** air-dry clay, plastic utensils or small art tools

**Expression: Using Imagination in Prayer**
- **Recorded Scripture** Ask children to get comfortable and close their eyes if they wish. Invite children to listen carefully and imagine. Play the Recorded Scripture Story of Luke 15:3–7, “A Lost Sheep” [Finding God Grade 1 CD 1, Track 5]. When the passage is over, encourage children to respond to what they heard. The script for this Recorded Scripture Story is on page T-265.
  - **Time:** 10 minutes
  - **Materials:** CD player, Recorded Scripture Story “A Lost Sheep” [Finding God Grade 1 CD 1, Track 5]

**EXPLORE ART PRINT**

**MATERIALS**
- The Good Shepherd Art Print
- Children’s Book page 234

**TIME**
- 10–30 minutes

**IF TIME ALLOWS**

Jesus told a story. How did you feel when you heard it? What did you do when you heard the story? How has God helped you when you have turned away from him? How do you know God loves you? What can you do when you turn away from God?”

A person who does something wrong needs to feel sorry and make amends. If someone loses something, then that person needs to look for it. A lost sheep is a common theme in paintings of the good shepherd, and today it is a common theme in the church. A man and a woman are looking for a lost sheep in a painting by the artist Philippe de Champaigne. The shepherd is looking through a maze to help the lost sheep get home. You tell everyone that you found your lost sheep. You are so happy!

For your convenience, the Children’s Book page is reproduced below.

If you wish, invite children to get comfortable and close their eyes. Invite children to listen carefully and imagine. Play the Recorded Scripture Story of Luke 15:3–7, “A Lost Sheep” [Finding God Grade 1 CD 1, Track 5]. When the passage is over, encourage children to respond to what they heard. The script for this Recorded Scripture Story is on page T-265.

**Materials:**
- CD player, Recorded Scripture Story “A Lost Sheep” [Finding God Grade 1 CD 1, Track 5]
The Good Shepherd

Philippe de Champaigne, circa 1650–1660.