

The Good Shepherd

ART PRINT 16

GRADE 4, UNIT 4, SESSION 16

Catechist Guide page 95

Faith Focus: Jesus teaches us about his love and care for us through the parable of the lost sheep.

OUTCOMES

- Explain that Jesus seeks out any followers who are lost to sin and rejoices when sinners repent.
- Retell the parable of the lost sheep.
- Define *repentance*.



About the Artist Some pieces of art are unsigned. The anonymous artists may have been skilled, yet unemployed, amateurs who were supported by benefactors. They may have made their work for personal use, or, as is likely for this piece, they may have been commissioned by another person to design and complete the artwork.

Art-i-facts The mosaic of *The Good Shepherd Among His Flock* adorns the Mausoleum of Galla Placidia in Ravenna, Italy. At one time this building contained the sarcophagi of Galla Placidia, her brother Honorius, and her husband Constantius III. Placidia was a devout Christian and a patron of the arts. During her period of influence, she oversaw the building and renovation of many churches. The mausoleum that bears her name is known for its mosaics, an art form in which an image is made by setting pieces of colored stone, cut glass, or other materials into an adhesive surface.

CATECHIST DIRECTIONS

1 Begin

After completing page 95 in the Children's Book, display the Art Print.

Briefly introduce and discuss the artwork, using information from About the Artist and Artifacts.

Ask: **What do you see in this image?** (Jesus, sheep)

What do shepherds do? (Possible answers: care for their sheep by making sure they have enough to eat and drink; protect sheep from harm) Say: **One of our titles for Jesus is the Good Shepherd. In a moment we're going to hear a Scripture story Jesus told about a shepherd and his sheep.**

Invite children to reflect on the artwork and to pray a silent prayer thanking God for the gift of Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

2 Connect

Have children turn to page 244 in their books. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question. Invite a volunteer to read aloud the heading and the first paragraph. Point out the vocabulary word. Say: **Repentance is our choice to turn away from sin. When we repent we express our desire to turn back to God and to live as he wants us to live.**

Remind children that a parable is a story that teaches a religious lesson by using comparisons. Invite volunteers to read aloud the Scripture passage.

Ask: **To whom is Jesus comparing himself in this passage?** (a shepherd) **Whom do the sheep represent?** (Jesus' followers) **What does a good shepherd do when he realizes he has lost one of his sheep?** (go out to look for the lost sheep) **What does he do when he finds the sheep?** (rejoices) Say: **In this passage Jesus explains that he is the Good Shepherd and that he calls us to repent when we freely choose to turn away from God.** Explain that repentance is our desire to turn back to God after we have freely chosen to turn away from him. Emphasize that Jesus rejoices when we choose to repent.

Read aloud The Good Shepherd. Give children time to complete the activity.

IF TIME ALLOWS

If time allows, complete one or more of the activities below.

Expression: Movement

Act Out the Parable Invite small groups to work together to prepare and present dramatizations of the parable of the good shepherd. Encourage children to focus on the shepherd's care and concern for the lost sheep. Children may wish to use simple costumes or props in their dramatizations. After each group has had a chance to present, say: **Remember what this story teaches us about Jesus, the Good Shepherd. He calls us back when we stray from God, and he celebrates when we choose to repent.**

Time: 20–30 minutes
Materials: costumes, props

Expression: Art Studio

Good Shepherd Mosaics Remind children that mosaics are made by gluing small pieces of colored stone, cut glass, or other materials to a surface. After distributing the supplies, invite children to make their own mosaics of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, by tearing small pieces of construction paper and gluing the pieces to another sheet of construction paper.

Time: 20–30 minutes
Materials: construction paper, glue

Expression: Using Imagination in Prayer

Praying with the Good Shepherd Give children a moment to reflect on the Art Print. Say: **Think of a worry or concern you would like to share with Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Take a moment to talk with Jesus.** Ask: **What does he say to you?** Pause, then conclude by praying together *Amen*.

Time: 10 minutes
Materials: none

MATERIALS

- The Good Shepherd Art Print
- Children's Book page 244

TIME

10–30 minutes

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

EXPLORE
ART PRINT
16

Name _____ Date _____

Art Print 16 is an image of a mosaic that depicts Jesus, the Good Shepherd. What do you think he would do if he lost one of his sheep?

The Lost Sheep

When we sin, Jesus calls us to **repentance** and to seek God's forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Jesus teaches us about his love and care for us through the parable of the lost sheep.

What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it? And when he does find it, he sets it on his shoulders with great joy and, upon his arrival home, he calls together his friends and neighbors and says to them, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you, in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance.

Luke 15:4–7



The Good Shepherd

Use the code to solve the puzzle.

17 22 8 6 8 , 7 19 22 20 12 12 23

8 19 22 11 19 22 9 23 , 15 12 5 22 8 6 8

26 13 23 24 26 9 22 8 21 12 9 6 8 .

Z Y X W V U T S R Q P O N M L K J I H G F E D C B A
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

The Good Shepherd



Anonymous, fifth century.