

Elementary: The Good Shepherd

(Week of Apr. 18)

“I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me” JN 10:11-18

During the Easter season, we continue to celebrate the Risen Christ, and His presence with us and within us that gives us His peace and allows us to know Him through the Eucharist.

Gather: *Beginning and Ending.* Start with the category of ‘animals’ – the first person names any animal (ex. horse). The other person must think of an animal that starts with the last letter of the animal that the first person names named (ex. elephant). Continue play (ex. tiger...rhino...ostrich...) Play alternates until someone cannot think of an animal!

Connect: *As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.* Our game could go on and on, but eventually we would run out of words. That is true of most earthly things – eventually the fun runs out, or the batteries run out, or time runs out. The only thing that is forever is God, and because of Jesus’ sacrifice, we have forever with Him! During the Easter season, we continue to celebrate all that Jesus has given us – most importantly the gift of Himself in the Eucharist. Today we will look at the other gifts Jesus gave us like inviting us to be one of his followers.



Explore Grade Level Activities:

YEAR 1 (CH 17) The First Followers of Jesus. This week we learn about the early followers of Jesus, and how we are just like them.

YEAR 2 Lessons can be found [HERE](#).

3rd Grade (CH 17): Signs of God’s Kingdom. Ask you child their favorite place to be (beach, mountains, park or even home). Next, ask them what they think the Kingdom of God will be like. Then begin to explore the chapter together.

4th Grade (CH 17): Called by Baptism. By helping others, we are doing the work of Jesus. Have your child think of two ways they can help someone else this week (help with dinner, take pet for a walk, read to a sibling...) Talk about the different ways we can use our talents that God gave us to help others before exploring the chapter together.

5th Grade (CH 18) Holy Orders and Matrimony. Open your conversation by talking about commitments and promises, then begin to explore the chapter together.

Reflect: Read the Gospels from this week and next week, **Jesus Appears to His Disciples (LK 24:35-48)** and **The Good Shepherd (JN 10:11-18)** or you can view it at [CATHOLIC KIDS CONNECTION](#)

Live It: In Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus tells us that we will always recognize His voice – as long as we continue to listen, and He will always love, care for and guide us as our Good Shepherd – as long as we continue to follow Him. This week’s challenge is to let other’s hear Jesus’ voice through you! Using sidewalk chalk, decorate your driveway or sidewalk near your home with messages of kindness and inspiration for your neighbors to see!