

Sheep Without a Shepherd

Theme

Jesus cares for those who have lost their way.

Object

A book of Mother Goose nursery rhymes

Scripture

When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

Mark 6:34 (NIV)

I can still remember the days when as a small child, my mother read to me from a book of Mother Goose nursery rhymes. I'll bet someone read those poems to you as well. Do you know the one about Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall? How about the one about the Three Blind Mice or Little Miss Muffet sat on a Tuffet? Those are all good ones! Do you know what my favorite was? It was Little Bo Peep. You know that one, don't you?

Little Bo Peep has lost her sheep,
And can't tell where to find them;
Leave them alone, and they'll come home,
Bringing their tails behind them.

Wait a minute! "Leave them alone and they'll come home." Do you think that is good advice? If you had flock of sheep and they wandered off and got lost, would you just leave them alone and hope they would find their way back? No, of course not. You would go out and search until you found them and you would bring them back home.

Did you know that sheep are the one of the most frequently mentioned animals in the Bible? I searched the Bible and found more than 200 verses that mention sheep. Jesus quite often compared people to sheep and Jesus said of himself, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

In our Bible reading today, we see that Jesus and his disciples had been working very hard. They had been traveling from town to town teaching and preaching. The Bible tells us that they were so busy that they didn't even have a chance to eat. Jesus could see that they were tired, so he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." So they got in a boat and went away by themselves to a quiet place. But guess what? When they got there, they looked out and saw a great crowd of people waiting for them.

It would have been an easy thing for Jesus to say to the crowd, "You all go on your way. We are tired and need some rest. Come back some other time." But Jesus didn't do that. He looked at the crowd and "He was moved with compassion because they were like sheep without a shepherd." What does "he was moved with compassion" mean? Does that mean he felt sorry for them? No, it means more than that. It means that when Jesus saw that they were like sheep without a shepherd, he was moved to action. Remember what Jesus said about himself? "The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

"Leave them alone and they'll come home, bringing their tails behind them." Not Jesus! Not the "Good Shepherd!" He lays down his life for the sheep.

Father, we thank you for sending Jesus. We are thankful that he never leaves us wandering, lost and alone, without a shepherd to guide us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Interactive Group Activities
by Carol Williams & Charles Kirpatrick

Sermon Title: "Sheep without a Shepherd"

Scripture Reading: Mark 6:3-34

SHEEP GUIDING: Divide children into groups with a Shepherd. Each shepherd needs to lead their sheep in various trails and around obstacles to see if all their sheep can follow. At different times and with different sheep groups, the teacher will grab a sheep out of the group and hide away from the shepherd for that shepherd and sheep flock to find it.

BIBLE VERSE SHEEP HUNT: The teacher can have drawings of many different sheep taped in various places around the room. Tell children to find all the sheep that have run off...and tape them in the right order on the wall, according to the Bible verse words that have been written on the sheep before classtime.

SHEEP SHEEP SHEPHERD: This game is played like the game called DUCK DUCK GOOSE. All the children sit in a circle as sheep in the fold except one child who is IT. IT walks around the circle tapping each player on the head saying, "SHEEP" each time until he decides to tap someone and say "SHEPHERD" and then takes off running around the circle. The child tapped as SHEPHERD jumps up and chases IT, trying to tag him before IT can take his seat. If IT successfully reaches SHEPHERD'S seat without being tagged, then the one tapped as SHEPHERD becomes the new IT. If the SHEPHERD tags IT, then the SHEPHERD keeps his spot in the circle and IT must continue to be IT for another turn.

COTTON SHEEP: Provide the children with cotton balls, scissors, glue and crayons to cut out a tracing of a large sheep. Color the sheep, glue pieces of cotton balls to the sheep and attach all the sheep to the classroom wall.

SHEEP VERSE: Provide the children with white and black construction paper to cut out parts of the sheep's body. Glue onto another piece of paper and glue a copy of today's Bible verse that the teacher has typed out before classtime. Encourage children to learn the verse and to share today's story.

LITTLE BO PEEP BANNER: The children can color and decorate a long banner for the Little Bo Peep Christian version which is: Little Bo Peep has lost her sheep and doesn't know where to find them. BUT JESUS does and He will bring them home, wagging their tails behind them!

HIS SHEEP WALL HANGING: All the children can cut out a small sheep to color and add a very small amount of cotton ball wisps. ...and write their own name on their sheep. Hang each of the sheep on a wall or from the ceiling with curling ribbon.

SING A SONG: I AM JESUS' LITTLE LAMB; SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US

SHARE A SNACK: Marshmallows and toothpicks to form a sheep; recite our Bible verse and EAT! ! (Of course chocolate or other toppings would be fun to dip the marshmallows sheep into as well)

Song: "I Am Jesus' Little Lamb"

Words and Music (pdf)



MP3 Accompaniment Track (right click to save to your computer)

Song: "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Words and Music (pdf)



MP3 Accompaniment Track (right click to save to your computer)

About Carol Williams

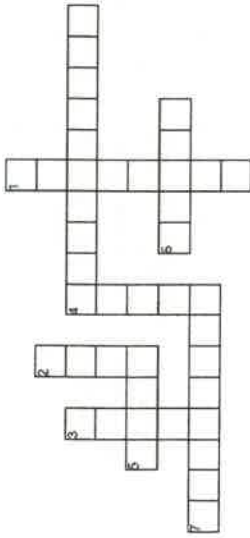
Carol and her husband have served churches in Illinois, Minnesota, Mississippi, Michigan, Indiana. Carol loves to work with children so you will find her teaching in Junior Church and children's Sunday School. She also has clowning ministry in which she is known as Bubbles the clown.

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Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

4. To understand the suffering of others and want to do something about it
5. To take a break from activity
6. Free from noise or activity
7. A person who takes care of sheep

DOWN

1. Giving knowledge and skills to others
2. A small vessel for travel on water
3. A small, usually white, woolly animal
4. A large group of people

SHEPHERD	COMPASSION	QUIET	BOAT
SHEEP	TEACHING	CROWD	REST



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Children's Worship Bulletin

Sheep without a Shepherd

Mark 6:30-34

Word Search Puzzle

P F T I W P C J S E I I L W R
L H E P E R E G H I C V P P
Y V A B Z O T S H X E I D R D
F C E C I P E U S H F E M F F
B O A T E L I S G N C E P B G
Z M G U T E D N H N P V M S U
D L B S L C I T O Z I C C H K
J O O B X H J I J K R P I E Z
V P S B C X S W X W E Z Y P M
A I W A X S D U L U S D P P H N
T B E Y A C R O W D T V P E Y
E T X P U Y F F E U I T Z R N
F W M C I E Q B M Q X D X D P P
G O A U G S O L I T A R Y T T
C F H X S Z F Z H D S C V B L

SHEPHERD	APOSTLES	BOAT	SOLITARY
TEACHING	CROWD	PLACE	REST
COMPASSION	JESUS	PEOPLE	SHEEP

Your Church Name
Any Town, Anywhere

Coloring Page

Connect the dots to complete the picture, then color the completed picture.



When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things. Mark 6:34 (NIV)

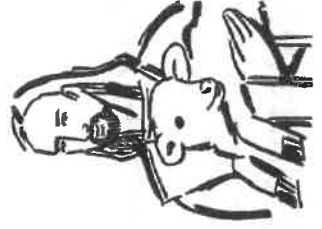
Decoder Puzzle

The words below have been written in code. Use the hints in the decoder at the top of the page to help break the code (the letters on top are the correct answers, the letters on the bottom are the code). Write the correct word on the line provided beside each code word.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
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

- 2-15-1-20 _____
- 19-8-5-5-16 _____
- 19-8-5-16-8-5-18-4 _____
- 19-15-12-9-20-1-18-25 _____
- 18-5-19-20 _____
- 17-21-9-5-20 _____
- 20-5-1-3-8 _____
- 5-1-20 _____
- 16-5-15-16-12-5 _____
- 3-18-15-23-4 _____

BOAT	SHEEP	SHEPHERD	SOLITARY	REST
QUIET	TEACH	EAT	PEOPLE	CROWD



Sheep Without A Shepherd Coloring Page

