

Dear Parents,

We have reached the last weekend of lesson plans! I know this has been a very different year of faith education for you and your children and I greatly appreciate the time and effort you have put into the lessons. Hopefully we will return to 'in person' classes in the Fall.

Let's pray together this week for:

- For the church, keeping the Spirit of God alive each day
- For the world, struggling to find peace
- For those in our life to whom we are grateful for their example and mentoring
- For our parish community, called together by the Good Shepherd

The work to cover in their "Be My Disciples" book this week is:

- Pages 255 for all levels

You will find below the duo tang masters that show different questions than those you received in your duo tang. Remember, the questions to be answered are those in the duo-tang you received at book pick-up, not the questions on the masters below. I encourage you to use the questions below to open a dialogue with your child.

The prayer service this week can be found at <https://worship.pastoral.center/day/2021-04-25>.

Feel free to email me if you have any questions.

Have a Blessed week!

Beverley

Beverley Wiltsie

Director of Family Faith Education

St. Veronica's Parish

No One Forces Him

This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Acts 4:8-12 - The stone that has become the cornerstone
- ▶ 1 John 3:1-2 - The children of God
- ▶ John 10:11-18 - The Good Shepherd

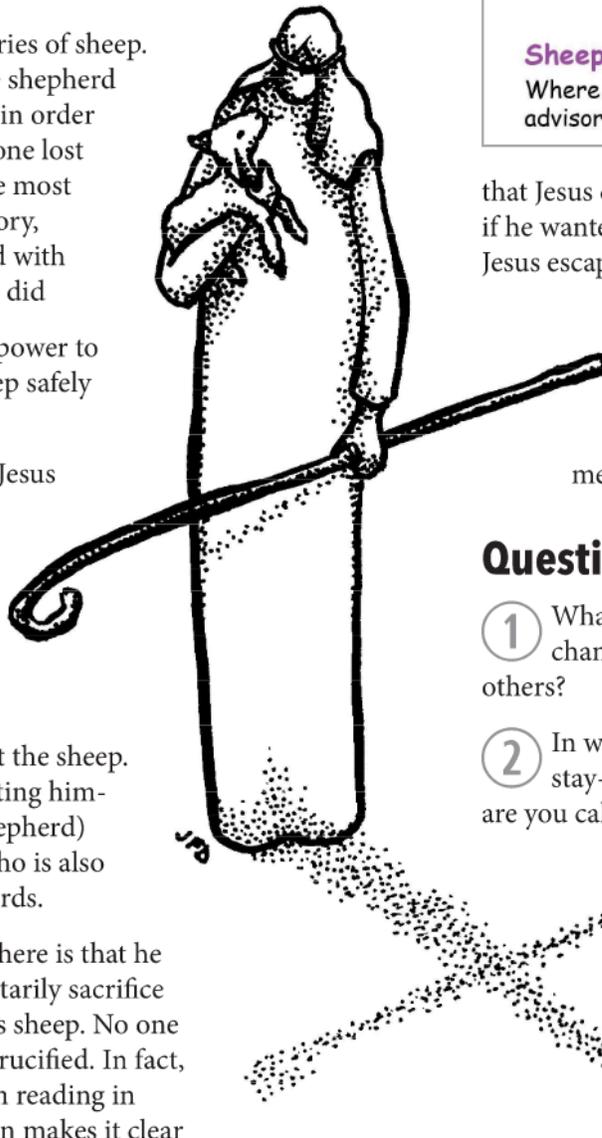
In Jesus' time and culture, raising sheep was such a common vocation that it was easy for Jesus' listeners to identify with metaphors about sheep, flocks, and shepherds. Many stories, parables, psalms, and commandments in the Old Testament revolved around sheep and shepherds. You might think here of Psalm 23: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want..."

Jesus also told stories of sheep. The parable of the shepherd who left 99 sheep in order to search out the one lost sheep is one of the most famous. In that story, Jesus equated God with the shepherd who did

everything in his power to bring the lost sheep safely home.

In today's gospel, Jesus is even more direct. He identifies himself as the ultimate good shepherd who is willing to die in order to protect the sheep. He is clearly equating himself (the Good Shepherd) with the Father who is also the best of shepherds.

Jesus' main point here is that he is willing to voluntarily sacrifice his own life for his sheep. No one forces him to be crucified. In fact, during the Passion reading in John's Gospel, John makes it clear



I see you have some followers, Bernice.

Lead them well.

DON'T WORRY, I KNOW MY SHEEP AND MY SHEEP KNOW ME!

THANK!!

WHICH IS WHY WE ALWAYS STAY FIVE PACES BACK.

© Jean Denton flock.pastoralcenter.com

"I am the good shepherd and I will lay down my life for the sheep."

Sheepish Question:
Where is Jesus guiding me that other leaders or advisors are not?

that Jesus could get himself out of his predicament if he wanted to; in short, he does not have to die. If Jesus escaped, however, he would be like nothing more than a hired hand who runs away when he sees a wolf coming for the flock. Jesus tells us ahead of time that he is willing to stand fast, and that he will not abandon his sheep, even if it means he will die for them.

Questions of the Week

- 1 What occupations in today's world offer the chance for people to lay down their lives for others?
- 2 In whatever your life situation is (paid work, a stay-at-home parent, a retired person, etc) how are you called to lay down your life for others?

Word of the Week • Copyright © 2020 Ann Naffziger. Published by the Pastoral Center / PastoralCenter.com. All rights reserved.