



Friends of Jesus and Mary

Cycle A - IV Sunday of Easter

Acts 2, 14^a 36-41; Psalm 22, 1Peter 2, 20b-25; John 10, 1-10

Jesus, the Good Shepherd

Jesus said: "Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber. But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice. But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers." Although Jesus used this figure of speech, the Pharisees did not realize what he was trying to tell them. So Jesus said again, "Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."

Reflection:

Jesus compares Himself to a shepherd, ¿What is the work of a shepherd? A

shepherd protects and guides the sheep so they are safe and well fed. **¿How is Jesus a shepherd?** With His Word, His presence in the Eucharist, and with the Holy Spirit, Jesus guides us on how to do what's right and how to get closer to God so we can get to Heaven. He also protects us and provides all that is good for us.

Jesus says that there are shepherds which are thieves; they don't enter through the gate of the sheepfold or pen but jump over the fence. But the sheep don't follow them because they don't recognize the voice. To whom was Jesus referring? Jesus was referring to the Pharisees who led the Jewish people but who did not have God in their hearts; instead, they desired power and riches.

Jesus says that whoever enters through the gate is the good shepherd; Jesus says He is gatekeeper and He lets them in. Who are our good shepherds that Jesus lets in? Pope Francis is the main shepherd of our Catholic Church. He names bishops who name priests to be our shepherds who guide us with the mass and the sacraments to Heaven. **Jesus says that His sheep follow the good shepherd because they recognize His voice. How do we listen to Jesus' voice?** We pray and listen to or read scripture; Jesus speaks to our heart with ideas and inspirations. If these ideas and inspirations lead us to do good and obey God, we know they are from Jesus.

What does Jesus tell us in His Word and in His example that we must do to follow Him? Jesus tells us to love God and love our neighbor. He showed us when He prayed and practiced His faith and when He cured the sick, fed the hungry, forgave sins, and washed His apostle's feet.

Activity:

Search in the Gospels 3 examples where Jesus shows us how to love God or our neighbor. Choose one and draw it. Print or draw a sheep on card stock or cardboard (see next page). Cut and paste onto a craft stick. Write your name on the back. Dance with your sheep to the song below.

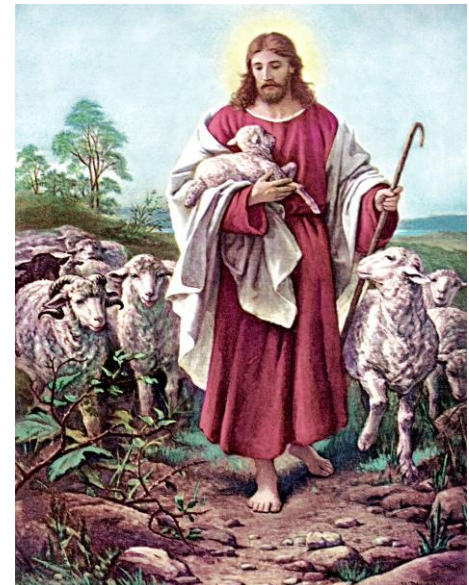
Prayer:

Jesus, help me to pray more each day so I may know you better and always recognize your voice. Thank you for always loving me, caring for me, and guiding me. I love you very much. Amen.

Song: I Will Follow You, Roy Rantung, <https://youtu.be/jpVuBcbZ24c>, (3-7 years)

I Will Follow, Summit Kids, <https://youtu.be/QywIgyfCQm4>, (8+ years)

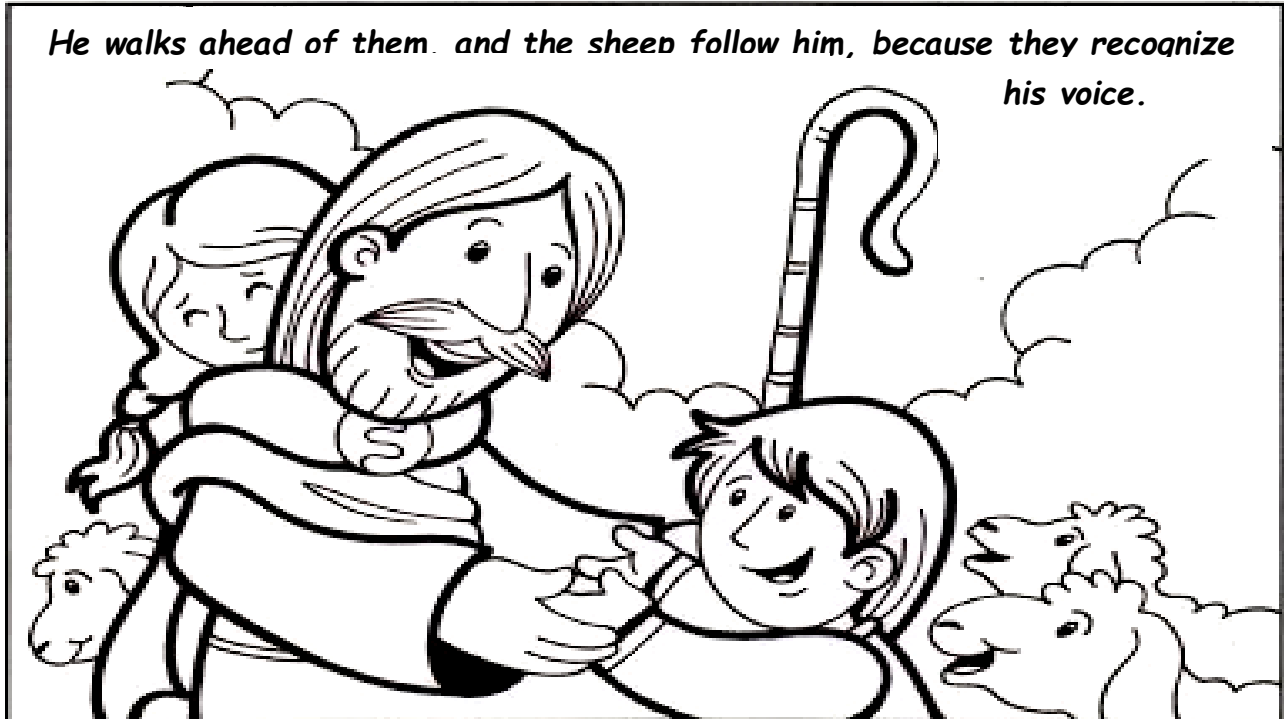
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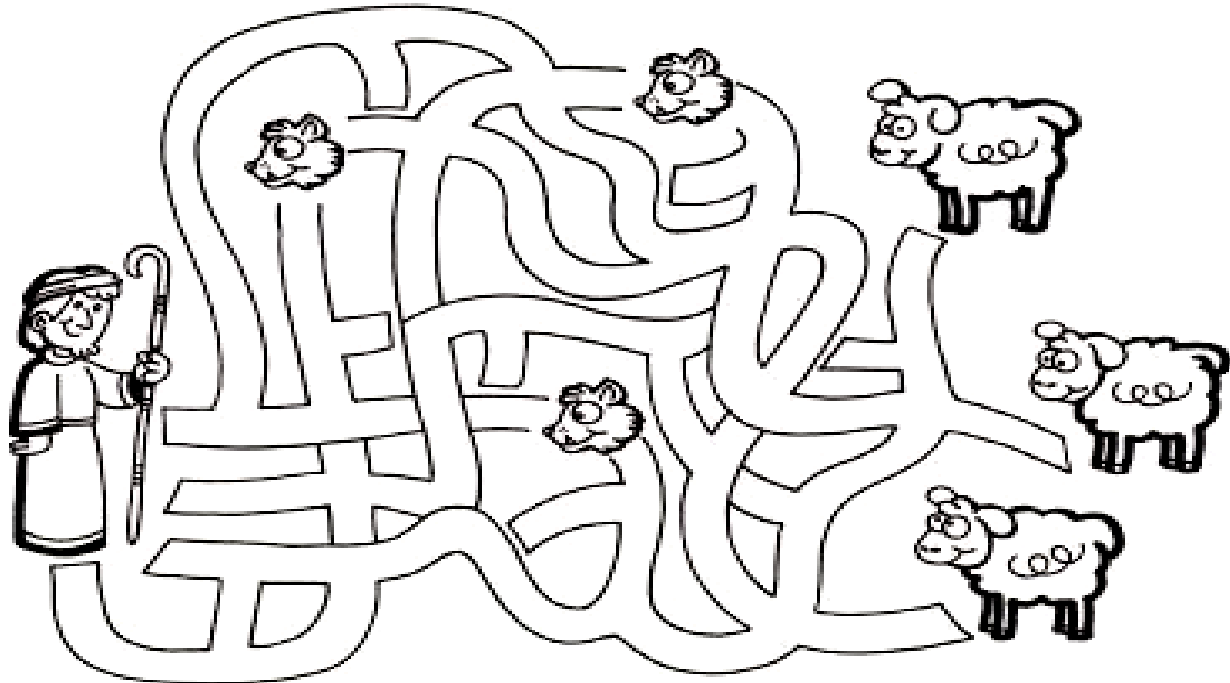


Cycle A

4th Sunday of Easter, John 10: 1-10



Let's help the shepherd reach his sheep while avoiding the wolves. Color the correct path.





GAME - REACH THE GOOD SHEPHERD– Cut and make cards. Place the Good Shepherd band on your forehead (next page). Read a card to one child at a time; have them take steps. The first to reach you wins.

Obey your parents. 4 steps Forward.	Lie to your teacher. 2 steps back	Pray for the person that hurt you. 2 steps forward	Steal a phone. 4 steps back
Help the new person in school. 2 steps forward	Make fun of the awkward kid. 3 steps back	Go to Mass with your family. 3 steps forward	Talk bad about someone. 2 steps back
Say hi to the person who ignores you. 3 steps forward	Watch the program your Mom told you not to. 2 steps back	Forgive someone who hurt you 3 steps forward	Hit your brother for pestering you. 4 steps back
Help your sister with homework 2 steps forward	Hide your bad grade so Mom won't see it. 4 steps back	Pray when you wake up and when you go to sleep. 4 steps forward	Pick up your room. 3 steps forward
Give some of your toys to the poor. 3 steps forward	Don't let anyone play with your new video game. 4 steps back	Call your Grandma who is alone. 3 steps forward	Don't answer when your Father calls you. 2 steps back



Friends of Jesus and Mary Amigos de Jesús y María

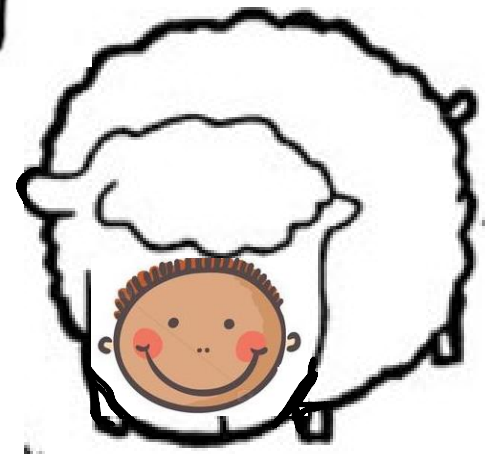
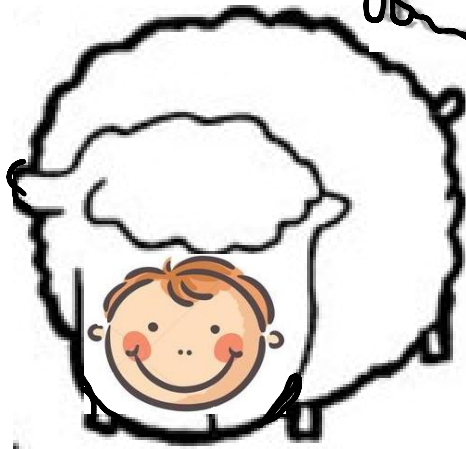


Florida Center for Peace

Instructions: Color and cut Jesus and the sheep. Glue cotton on to the sheep's head and glue Jesus and the sheep onto popsicle sticks or ribbons to tie around the head. Dance to the song:

I Will Follow You,
Roy Rantung,

<https://youtu.be/jpVuBcbZ24c>



My sheep listen to
my voice; I know
them and they
follow me.
John 10:27



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