

This resource is designed to allow your family to have time in God's Word **BEFORE** your children attend church. Because God's plan is for **parents to be the primary spiritual nurturers** of their children's faith, *we want YOU to be the one to introduce* this part of The Big God Story to them.

For additional support in spiritual parenting and to learn more about creating transforming environments in your home, be sure to pick up **HomeFront: A Spiritual Parenting Resource** from your church or download at HomeFrontMag.com. You can also access the HomeFront app for your iPhone, iPad, or Android device.



4.1

JESUS IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Shepherd and His Flock John 10:1-18

Jesus used a story to teach people, called a parable, about the way a shepherd cares for his sheep. Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He loves His sheep and He knows them. Jesus is our Good Shepherd and we are His sheep.

JUST FOR FUN

Play a game of "sheep and shepherd." You be the shepherd and allow your children to be the sheep. Send them into their rooms and tell them to listen for your voice. Turn on the television and radio to create noise and distraction. Then call your children by name. Once they come to you, talk with them about how they heard and recognized your voice over all the other noises in your home. Read **John 10:14-16**. Tell your children that God says we are like sheep. Jesus is our Shepherd. He takes care of us and protects us.

Did You Know?

- Sheep are among the most helpless animals on earth. They are completely dependent on their shepherd to provide for and protect them.
- As our Good Shepherd, Jesus is concerned about our welfare and protection.
- In claiming to be our Good Shepherd, Jesus was actually claiming to be God— and risking death in doing so.

Your child may love to hear you retell stories of things he has done. As your child is forming his identity, use these storytelling opportunities as a chance to weave in the ways that God has given him unique talents and abilities.

Teachable Moments

- Why do you think Jesus wants us to follow Him?
- What are some ways we can be sure we are following Jesus?
- How does it feel to know that Jesus is guiding and protecting you?

Remember Verse

*You have made known to me
the paths of life;
You will fill me with joy in
Your presence.*

Acts 2:28

Blessing

For more information about blessing your child, see the Blessing section in **HomeFront: A Spiritual Parenting Resource**.

A blessing to pray over your child:

(Child's name), may you know that you belong to Jesus. May you rest in knowing that He is with you and guiding you.