

Welcome Week: Sheep and Shepherds

"Found" by Sally Lloyd-Jones and Jago

Psalms 23

TEACHER PREPARATION

- Read through Ps 23 in the Bible. Pray.
- Set up the room: CD/iPod, toys, Bible books.
- Set out the paper and markers for a Table activity
- Set out the Story *"Found"* by Sally Lloyd-Jones and Jago
- Set out the snack supplies.
- Turn on some music during playtime.

WELCOME:

We begin each lesson by welcoming the children into the room. We have detailed how to do this welcome here because it is a very significant part of your time together and it is good to establish a routine with your children. As you welcome the children each week, you are making a connection and setting the tone for your time together with the children. The welcome is intentional and purposeful as your welcome communicates to the children that you know who they are and that you care for them individually. Simply put your welcome of the children establishes, nurtures and reinforces your relationship with them.

WELCOME

The Helper walks with children from service to nursery.

The Teacher sits in front of closed classroom door. The Teacher greets each child as they arrive and waits for children to take their shoes off with their parents.

When everyone is ready (shoes are all off and the children waiting with their parents), the teacher says, "Let me pray for us. Jesus bless this time, teach our hearts, give us your peace. Amen."

The Teacher then opens door and welcomes children to play and engage in the table activity.

Saying goodbye to Mom or Dad can be hard in these first few weeks. It is OK for parents to come in this first week to help the children adjust.

This first week is all about getting the children use to the room and the teachers and the routine. There will be a lot of new things this week for you as a teacher and for the children so we will be keeping the story and activities simple.

PLAY TIME : Engage with the children as they play, read or do the activity. You can have some calm, simple children's music playing in the background. ~15 minutes.

PLAY: Put out a variety of simple toys.

READ: Put out a variety of age-appropriate board books.

TABLE ACTIVITY: Put some blank paper and markers for coloring.

Clean up Song

Clean up, clean up, Everyone, everywhere

Clean up, clean up, Everybody do your share.

Gather in a circle on the carpet...

SINGING TIME: ~5 minutes

Sing the **Hello Song** to learn each others name.

Then choose 1-2 of the following songs to sing:

Jesus Loves Me

God is so Good

Jesus Loves the Little Children

The Lord is my Shepherd

Transition to Story Time with the following finger play.

Teach the children the actions as you say the words. They will pick it up over time.

To hear a story (cup hand behind ear)

From God's Holy Book (form a book with your hands)

I close my mouth (Touch mouth)

Just listen and look (Touch ears and eyes)

STORY TIME: ~5 minutes

ACT OUT THE STORY: Use wooden figures and the "Shepherds and Sheep" Script to act out the story.



Transition to Prayer Time with the following finger play.

Teach the children the actions as you say the words. They will pick it up over time.

Open them shut them, Open them shut them, Give your hands a clap clap clap
Open them shut them, Open them shut them, Put them in your lap

PRAYER TIME: ~3 minutes

Teacher prays simple, short prayer thanking God for the children and linking to the Main Idea of Story they have heard.

Transition to Snack Time: And now we have Snack time!

Sing the following song with the children for Grace. They will pick it up over time.

Hands, hands, hands, Thank you God for hands.
Food, food, food, Thank you God for food.
Friends, friends, friends, Thank you God for friends. Amen.

SNACK TIME: ~10 minutes

Helper washes children's hands. Teacher cleans table, sets up for snack
When everyone is seated. Eat, laugh, enjoy fellowship at the table

You may want to read the book *"Found: Psalm 23"* by Sally Lloyd-Jones and Jago while the kids are seated and eating.

FREE PLAY TIME: Free play until parents arrive for pick-up.

Shepherds and Sheep Script

Materials: Box containing Green Underlay, Blue felt water, 3 black felt rocks, 3 long fence and 2 short gate pieces, several sheep (wooden or plastic), shepherd figure (brown with crook), Jesus figure (white)

I wonder what's inside this box?	Hold the box in front of the children. Lift the lid and peek inside.
I wonder what this could be? It looks like it could be a green, grassy field.	Take out the green underlay . Place it on the floor in front of the kids.
Hmm, what might this be? It's so blue. It looks like it could be water.	Take out the blue water and put it somewhere on one side of the green underlay like a river or a large pond.
These look like very dark pieces. These might be rocks.	Take out a few rocks and place them opposite the water.
And what might this be?	Take out one piece of the fence . Place it on the green underlay.
Look, there is another one. And another. And another...	Then pull out one piece after another...laying them down parallel to each other
I wonder what you could make with these pieces? We could make a square with an inside and an outside. We could use these to make a gate so there is a way in and out.	Arrange them into a sheep pen. Make a gate by separating one end of the fences.
I wonder who lives in this place?... Sheep! Lots of sheep.	Look in the box and pull out the sheep one by one and place them in the sheep pen.
I wonder who will take care of these sheep?	Take out the shepherd figure (brown with crook) and place him with his sheep.
A shepherd takes care of the sheep. He leads the sheep to water and keeps them safe from danger.	Open the gate and have the shepherd lead the sheep out of the pen to water and then show how he keeps them away from the rocks as they return following the shepherd to the pen. (No need to rush this part)
Do you know that the Bible says Jesus is like a shepherd? He is the Good Shepherd who takes care of us by loving us and keeping us safe.	Hold up the Jesus figure (white) in your hand and show him to the children.

Shepherds and Angels

ADVENT 3

TEACHER PREPARATION

- Read through the story in the Bible (Luke 2:8-19). Pray.
- Set up the room: CD/iPod, toys, music instruments, Bible books.
- Set out the Table activity (coloring page, play dough or craft)
- Set out the Story materials (book, figures or engage supplies)
- Set out the snack supplies

WELCOME: Helper walks with children from service to nursery. Teacher greets each child at door. Turn on some music

PLAY TIME : Engage with the children as they play, read or do the activity. ~15 minutes.

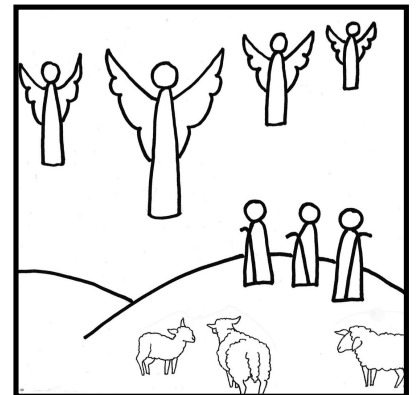
PLAY: Put out Nativity scene to play with: Stable with wool sheep and birds, wood animals. Mary and the Angel Gabriel. This week **add:** Joseph and the Shepherds and the Angels. Play with the children re-telling the Christmas story.

READ: "A Baby Born in Bethlehem" by Martha Whitmore Hickman and Giuliano Ferri

ACTIVITIES:

Coloring Page: Mary and Gabriel

Play dough: Provide the playdough and the Shepherds and Angels Playdough Mat and shaping tools and the Christmas cookie cutters. Talk through the story as you shape the playdough with them. Ask questions. Play!



Clean up Song

Clean up, clean up, Everyone, everywhere
Clean up, clean up, Everybody do your share.



Gather in a circle on the carpet...

ADVENT WREATH: (use battery powered candles)

Light first candle and SAY: "This is the candle of Hope.

We have ONE hope (hold up one finger). Our hope is in Jesus."

Light second candle and say: "This is the second candle. This is the candle of Peace (hold up two fingers, peace sign). Jesus is the peace of the world."

Light third candle and say: "This the third candle of advent. This is the candle of JOY (hold up three fingers). Jesus is our Joy."

SINGING TIME: ~5 minutes

Here We Go To Bethlehem (tune of "This is the way we brush our hair")

The First Christmas Finger Play

Away in A Manger

Transition to Story Time with the following finger play.

To hear a story (*cup hand behind ear*)

From God's Holy Book (*form a book with your hands*)

I close my mouth (*Touch mouth*)

Just listen and look (*Touch ears and eyes*)

STORY TIME: ~5 minutes (*see the script on the next page*)

SHEPHERDS AND ANGELS:

Materials: Green underlay, shepherds (green), Sheep (wooden or Playmobil or Little People figures) Paper Angels.

Words	Actions
A long time ago, in a great, green field....	Lay down a green felt underlay
...there were lots and lots of sheep. 1, 2, 3, 4...	Place the wooden sheep down one by one.
These are the shepherds who take care of those sheep and keep them safe both day and night.	Place the shepherds
One dark night, as the shepherds kept watch over their sheep while they slept...something amazing happened! An angel appeared in the sky... and told the Shepherds some very good news. "God's son Jesus has finally been born!"	Bring the paper angel down to hover above the shepherds
Then sky filled with angels singing loud songs of joy to God!	Bring in more and more paper angels (you will need to place these on the underlay)
The Shepherds raced off as fast as they could to find the special baby who had been born. And who was that special baby born? Why... the Baby Jesus, the one we have all been waiting for.	Move the Shepherds to the edge of the green field

Transition to Prayer Time with the following finger play.

Open them shut them, Open them shut them, Give your hands a clap clap clap
Open them shut them, Open them shut them, Put them in your lap

PRAYER TIME: ~3 minutes

Teacher prays simple, short prayer thanking God for the children and linking to the Main Idea of Story they have heard. To finish: Sing the **Doxology** or Say the Closing Rhyme **Birds in the Air**.

Transition to Snack Time: ASK: And what time is it now? Snack time!

Hands, hands, hands, Thank you God for hands.
Food, food, food, Thank you God for food.
Friends. friends. friends. Thank you God for friends. Amen.

SNACK TIME: ~10 minutes

Helper washes children's hands. Teacher cleans table, sets up for snack
When everyone is seated. Eat, laugh, enjoy fellowship at the table

You may wish to read from "A Baby Born in Bethlehem" by *Martha Whitmore Hickman* and *Giuliano Ferri* while the kids are at the table.

FREE PLAY TIME: Free play until parents arrive for pick-up.

Simon and His Boat

"Read-Aloud Bible Stories: Volume 2" by Ella Lindvall...page 5

Luke 5:1-11

TEACHER PREPARATION

- Read through the story in the Bible. Pray.
- Set up the room: CD/iPod, toys, music instruments, Bible books.
- Set out the Table activity (coloring page, play dough or craft)
- Set out the Story materials (book, figures or engage supplies)
- Set out the snack supplies

WELCOME: Helper walks with children from service to nursery. Teacher greets each child at door. Turn on some music

PLAY TIME : Engage with the children as they play, read or do the activity. ~15 minutes.

PLAY: Put out toys: boats, nets, people and fish.

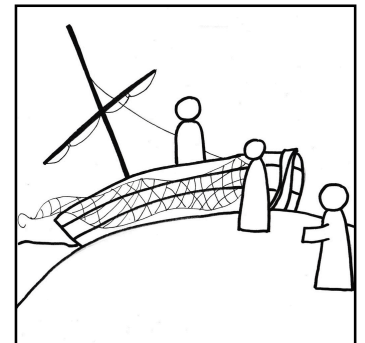
READ: Read the story "A Wish for a Fish" on page 156 of *The Rhyme Bible Storybook for Toddlers* by L. J. Sattgast

ACTIVITIES:

Week 1 Coloring Page: "Call of the Disciples"

Week 2 Play dough: Provide the playdough and shaping tools. You can use the "Jesus in Boat with Net" Playdough mat this week to talk through the story as you shape the playdough with them. Ask questions. Play!

Week 3 Craft: Make water color large fish on cardstock.



Clean up Song

Clean up, clean up, Everyone, everywhere
Clean up, clean up, Everybody do your share.



Gather in a circle on the carpet...

SINGING TIME: ~5 minutes

Get out instruments. Gather the children on the carpet in a circle.

Play the loud/quiet instrument game. Then when everyone is settled...

Sing the **Hello Song**. Then choose 2-3 of the following songs to sing:

1-2-3 Jesus Love Me

God is So Good

Jesus Loves Me

O How I Love Jesus

Transition to Story Time with the following finger play.

To hear a story (cup hand behind ear)
From God's Holy Book (form a book with your hands)
I close my mouth (Touch mouth)
Just listen and look (Touch ears and eyes)

STORY TIME: ~5 minutes

Week 1: READ THE STORY: Read "Simon and His Boat" from "Read-Aloud Bible Stories: Volume 2" by Ella Lindvall, page 5.

Week 2: ACT OUT THE STORY: Use wooden figures, nets, boats and fish to act out the story of Simon and His Boat. Use the script provided; one teacher reading and one teacher moving the figures.

Week 3: ENGAGE IN THE STORY :

Use your own words to tell story as the children act it out using the watercolor cardstock fish you made. The children play the part of the disciples and the teacher plays Jesus. Lay out a blanket and shape it into a boat. The children and the teacher sit in the boat as teacher tells the story. Use another piece of cloth or a crocheted blanket for the net. When the net is thrown into water the helpers can put the kids fish (paper cutouts) into the net. Play and have fun following the children's lead.

Transition to Prayer Time with the following finger play.

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