

Annesley All Saints

Good Shepherd window



Aim: The hear the story of the Good Shepherd and the Lost Sheep

Objective: Pupils will hear the story and think about what it feels like to be lost and found.

Curriculum links:

KS1 Story and Belonging

Activity: The children will find lost sheep, look at the window, hear the story and make sheep of their own to remind them of Jesus the Good Shepherd.

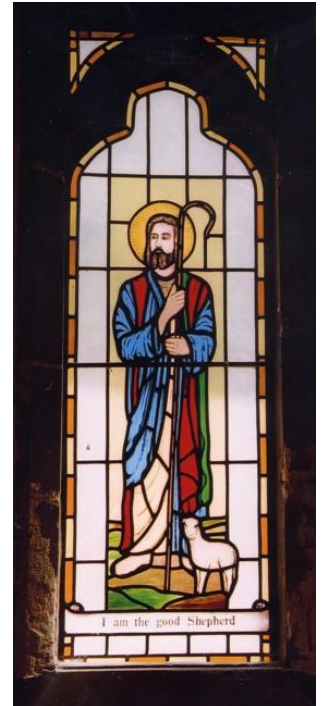
Resources: Cut out paper sheep

A piece of green fabric to act as a sheep pen

Children's Bible

Materials for making sheep

heritage learning welcome



Information for Leader

This session is based on the window in the south-west corner of the church, with the picture of the Good Shepherd and the inscription, 'I am the good Shepherd'. There are no records of who, if anyone, this window commemorates. Before the children arrive you will need to hide some small cut out sheep around the church.

Introduction (5 mins)

- As the children enter the church invite them to sit in the pews. Once the children have taken their coats off and settled in the pews and you have introduced yourself and welcomed them to All Saints Church, tell them that there are some sheep hidden around the church. Ask if they can help you find them. You will need to remind them not to run and ask that when they have found a sheep they bring it back to you to put back in the sheep pen. When you think they have found most of the sheep, and have had the opportunity to have a look round the church bring them back to the pews.

Activity (20 mins)

- Thank the children for finding the sheep for you. Count them to make sure they are all there. Ask who usually looks after sheep – a shepherd. There is a window with a picture of a shepherd in the church; did anyone see it while they were looking for the sheep? Take the children to see the Good Shepherd window. Apart from the words, how do we know this is a shepherd? (holding a shepherd's crook with a sheep standing by him) The words, 'I am the good Shepherd' Who does this refer to? Jesus described himself as the good shepherd, one who would do everything possible to look after his sheep. Christians believe Jesus will do anything possible to look after them, and indeed already has done so when he died on the cross. There is also a story Jesus told about a shepherd – does anyone know it?
- Jesus told this story to a group of people who thought he was doing something wrong. He had been talking to some bad people and the others thought he should only talk to good people and people who followed him. So, Jesus told this story to try and explain why he had been talking to the bad people. See if you can understand this while I read the story.
- Read the story of the Lost Sheep from a children's Bible. Some will give an explanation of the parable, if yours doesn't you need to be prepared to add one. If you would like a more creative way of telling the story visit http://bible4schools.org/files/files/shoebox_story_lost_sheep_4-5_yrs.pdf

- Ask the children why they think Jesus told that story. He wanted to say that everyone was important to God and that Jesus had come to see the bad people as well as the good. He loves us when we are bad as well as when we are good. The lost sheep is like the bad people, who end up with no-one to talk to and look after them. Jesus is like a good shepherd in that he will look for the lost sheep/people. So the window is of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. We know it is Jesus in the window because he has a halo around his head.
- Make sheep with the children – there are plenty of ideas of how to do this at: www.artistshelpingchildren.org/lambsheepartscraftsideaskidsforspring.html

Plenary (5 mins)

- Count the sheep the children found at the beginning of the session to make sure you haven't lost any.
- Invite the children to think for a moment about any time when they have been lost. What did it feel like? What did it feel like when they were found? What would the sheep feel like when he was found? This is what Christians feel like when they know Jesus.

Extension

- Back in the classroom children can use small animals to re-tell the story.
- Look at ways in which the story of the Lost Sheep has been portrayed in art.

