

Day 1 Discovery Center: Sheep Memory Game

DIRECTIONS

First, share the teaching tie-in. Show the different sheep on the cards, then shuffle the cards and place them face down. The children will take turns flipping over two cards, trying to get matches.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Show the MEMORY GAME SHEEP CARDS. Sheep don't all look alike, do they? God could have made just one type of sheep, but look at some of the varieties. There are black sheep, white sheep, speckled sheep, long-haired sheep, short-haired sheep, some with horns, some without horns, and many others. What an amazing and creative God he is!

Day 1 Wet Sensory Table: Sheep Washing

DIRECTIONS

Share the teaching tie-in, then have students use the shepherd to pretend to wash the sheep.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Look at our shepherd here. Shepherds take care of sheep. Did you know one thing shepherds do to take care of sheep is give them a bath? This helps get bugs and dirt off of them. Good shepherds take care of their sheep in many ways, just like God takes care of us.

Day 1 Dry Sensory Table: Lost Sheep

DIRECTIONS

Share the teaching tie-in, then have students dig through the sand to find the lost sheep (the different one).

TEACHING TIE-IN

Sheep are one of the most mentioned animals in the Bible. Jesus told a story about a man who had 100 sheep. When one got lost, the shepherd left the rest of the sheep and went to find the one lost sheep. He found it and brought it back. He was so happy! (Luke 15:4–7). This is how God feels about each one of us when we decide we want to be one of his children (his sheep).

Day 1 Dramatic Play: Fitzpatrick's Farm

DIRECTIONS

Share the teaching tie-in, then have kids dress up and pretend to be farmers/shepherds at an Irish sheep farm.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Did you know there are lots of sheep farms in Ireland? A farmer who raises sheep is often called a shepherd. What are some things a shepherd might do to take care of his sheep? Take responses. In Psalm 23, God shows us he is like the shepherd and we are like the sheep. God takes good care of us.

Day 2 Discovery Center:

Can “Ewe” Guess the Smell?

DIRECTIONS

Share the teaching tie-in, then instruct the students to try to guess what each smell is.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Did you know God gave sheep an excellent sense of smell? They use their sense of smell to help find their baby lambs, smell animal enemies coming, and find food. God is an amazing Creator!

Day 2 Wet Sensory Table: Still Water

DIRECTIONS

Share the teaching tie-in, then have the children swish their hands in the water. Discuss if sheep would want to drink from noisy, swishing water. Help make pools of still water by placing stones in the buckets or pots to weigh them down. Add water, then stand them in the table. Have the children swish their hands again, keeping outside of the buckets. Notice which water is noisy and which water is calm.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Psalm 23 says, “He leads me beside still waters.” Sometimes shepherds use rocks to build a small pool so the sheep won’t have to go near fast, noisy water. Sheep can drink from the calm little pool without being afraid. Sometimes we’re afraid too. What’s something you get scared of? Take responses. But Jesus, our Good Shepherd, helps us stay calm and not be afraid.

Day 2 Dry Sensory Table: Play Paths

DIRECTIONS

Share the teaching tie-in, then have the students play with the items, making paths in the sand with their sticks and pebbles and having the sheep walk along the paths with the sheepdog guiding them.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Sheep can use guidance so they don't go the wrong way. Sheepdogs, like border collies, help guide the sheep on the right path. God guides us, too, so we stay on the right path and don't get into danger. Isn't God kind? The Bible is the book he uses that helps us know the good path to follow.

Day 2 Dramatic Play: Fitzpatrick's Farm

DIRECTIONS

Share the teaching tie-in, then have the kids follow the path as they are guided by the sheepdog. Direct them to stay on the path and get to the Bible.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Sheepdogs, like border collies, lead and guide sheep so they stay on the right path. Did you know God as our shepherd leads and guides us too? He doesn't use a sheep path. He uses the Bible! When we read the Bible, it tells us what to do to stay on the right path and not get into bad stuff. The Bible is our special book to guide us through life. I hope you grow to love it and learn it!

Day 3 Discovery Center: Ewe-nique Eyesight

DIRECTIONS

Share the teaching tie-in, then show a close-up picture. Have the students guess what is in the picture, then show the full picture. Continue with the other pictures.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Did you know God gave sheep really good eyesight? They can see almost all the way around without even turning their heads, so it's difficult for another animal to sneak up on them. When an animal gets close, the sheep scurry away. Let's check out some close-up pictures of things and use our eyes to guess what they are.

Day 3 Wet Sensory Table: Take Away the Shadows

DIRECTIONS

Share the teaching tie-in, then place the dark-colored ice cubes in the table. Add just enough cold water to make the ice float. Have the children use the utensils to take out as many ice cubes/shapes as they can and place in the bowls.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Psalm 23 talks about walking through valleys and shadows. This is like those days when things seem to go wrong or even get a little scary. But when we tell God how we feel, he can help us trust him even when there are shadows. Let's pretend the ice cubes are shadows and take them away.

Day 3 Dry Sensory Table: Highs and Lows

DIRECTIONS

Share the teaching tie-in, then have students play with the sand, using the buckets and digging tools to build up sand to make mountains and remove sand to make valleys. Have the cars drive up and down the mountains and valleys.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Do you know what a valley is? Take responses. It's an area of land that is **lower than the hills or mountains around it**. Sometimes valleys can be **dark or scary places**. Psalm 23 tells us that even if we walk through a valley—like a scary time—we don't have to be afraid because God is with us. Our Shepherd never leaves us no matter what we're going through. Let's use our buckets and diggers to make some mountains and valleys.

Day 3 Dramatic Play: Fitzpatrick's Farm

DIRECTIONS

Share the teaching tie-in, then have the kids dress up and use the staffs like shepherds on a sheep farm.

TEACHING TIE-IN

A shepherd's staff is a long stick with a curved hook at the end. Shepherds use a staff to rescue sheep from danger and to gently guide them away from scary places by nudging them with it. Let's pretend we're shepherds gently using our staffs to care for our sheep and help them stay on the right path.

Day 4 Discovery Center: Shaving Cream Shearing

DIRECTIONS

Share the teaching tie-in, then instruct the children to use their craft stick to spread the shaving cream around on their sheep pattern. Next, students will “shear” their sheep, using the edge of their craft stick to clear off the shaving cream. Put the used shaving cream on the paper plate. Discard when done.

TEACHING TIE-IN

One way good shepherds take care of their sheep is by shearing them. That means they give their sheep a haircut! There are lots of reasons they do this, but one is to get rid of all the pesky bugs that get caught in their fleece. There are lots of bugs that really bug sheep. Bugs are a problem for sheep. They’re kind of like their enemies. In Psalm 23, God tells us he is good and will still give us good things and help us even though we may have enemies or hard problems. We can be so thankful for our good and kind God!

Day 4 Wet Sensory Table: Filled to Overflowing

DIRECTIONS

Share the teaching tie-in, then instruct the students to get a cup and fill it just a little full. Now try half full. Now try almost all the way to the top. Now try filling it to overflowing!

TEACHING TIE-IN

Psalm 23 says that my cup will overflow. Do you know what it looks like if a cup overflows? Demonstrate with the water and a cup. **This is a picture of God’s goodness and kindness to us. He doesn’t just give us a little—he gives us overflowing good things! Let’s try to fill our cups in different amounts, including overflowing.**

Day 4 Dry Sensory Table: Bugs, Bugs, Bugs

DIRECTIONS

Share the teaching tie-in, then have the children try to find the bugs and put them in the jars.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Have you ever gotten a bug bite? Pause for responses. Sometimes they're really itchy and annoying, huh? Sheep have bug enemies that bother them too. There are some bugs called nose bot flies that pester sheep and get on their faces and even crawl in their noses! Eww! That would feel terrible. Sometimes we have things that bother us too. We need to talk to God about our problems. He's always listening!

Day 4 Dramatic Play: Fitzpatrick's Farm

DIRECTIONS

Share the teaching tie-in, then kids can play with the fake bugs, snakes, and mice that are at Fitzpatrick's Farm.

TEACHING TIE-IN

We sometimes call animals like snakes, mice, and bugs pests. They might come near a house or barn

to find something to eat. Some people have the job of catching and taking these pests away so they don't become a problem. There are lots of other problems people live with because of sin in the world. But instead of grumbling about our problems, we should think about all the good things God does for us and be grateful. Remember to tell God thank you every day!

Day 5 Discovery Center: Feely Meely

DIRECTIONS

Share the teaching tie-in, then have the children take turns putting their hand through the hole in the box (or into the pillowcase), trying to guess one item they are feeling before pulling it out for all to see. OR place one object at a time for all to feel before revealing it.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Did you know sheep aren't just cute creatures, but are really quite useful to us? God thought of everything when he made sheep! We get milk and cheese and butter from sheep and also things like clothes and tape and cosmetics. Let's see if we can guess some things we get from sheep as we play Feely Meely.

Day 5 Wet Sensory Table: Rainbow Colors

DIRECTIONS

Share the teaching tie-in, then have each child dip the colored end of their paper towel in the water and see what happens. The colors will continue up the paper towel.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Ireland has lots and lots of rainbows—more than other places in the world. It rains a lot there, so lots of rainbows come out.

When I think of rainbows, I think of God, who gave us rainbows. Do you remember when the first rainbow happened? Take responses—after the flood of Noah's time. Just like God sent the rainbow and promised he would never flood the world again, he also promised in Psalm 23 that goodness and mercy shall follow his children all their lives. And they shall live in the house of the Lord forever. The rainbow is a great reminder that God keeps his promises.

Day 5 Dry Sensory Table: Higher Lands

DIRECTIONS

Share the teaching tie-in, then have the children build castles on the high areas of the sand.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Ireland has some places that are higher than others. These higher lands remind us of heaven. Someday we will live with God in heaven if we're part of his family—his flock. Is the Lord your shepherd?

Day 5 Dramatic Play: Fitzpatrick's Farm

DIRECTIONS

Share the teaching tie-in, then have the kids dress up and pretend to be shepherds on a sheep farm.

TEACHING TIE-IN

It's been an amazing time here in Ireland! Who can tell me something they learned at *Emerald Crossing* this week?