

# 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 **DIFFERENT SHEEP POSTER**. Sheep don't all look alike, do they? God could have made just one type of sheep, but look at some of these. There are white sheep, black 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 let the children try to guess what each smell is.

## **TEACHING TIE-IN**

Did you know God gave sheep a super good sense of smell? Their noses help them find their baby lambs, find food, and smell other animals coming. 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. 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 children play with the items, making paths in the sand with their craft sticks and stones and having the sheep walk along the paths with the sheepdog guiding them.

## TEACHING TIE-IN

Sheep need guidance so they don't go the wrong way. Show the DAY 2 ANIMAL PAL POSTER. Who is our animal pal today? Guide. Right! Guide is a border collie. Dogs like this help guide sheep on the right path. The Bible guides us, so we stay on the right path that pleases God.

# 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 guide sheep so they stay on the right path. Did you know God leads and guides his children, like a shepherd? 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. Let's follow the sheepdog I'm holding and walk along the good path to get to the Bible.

# Day 3 Discovery Center: Ewe-nique Eyesight

## DIRECTIONS

Share the teaching tie-in, then show the pictures one at a time, allowing the children to find the hidden mini sheep/lambs.

## 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 other animals can't easily sneak up on them. When an animal gets close, the sheep scurry away. Let's look at some pictures and use our eyesight to find the hidden sheep.

# 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 fresh, 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: New Pastures

## DIRECTIONS

After sharing the teaching tie-in, have the children match the colors of their cotton ball “sheep” to the paper “pastures.”

## TEACHING TIE-IN

One way good shepherds take care of their sheep is by moving them to different pastures. If sheep stay in one place too long, all the good grass gets eaten and may not grow back very well. Also, tiny creatures called parasites can start making the sheep sick if they stay too long. Let's be good shepherds and move our sheep to new pastures.

# 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, huh? Sheep have bug enemies that bother them too. There are some bugs called nose bot flies. They pester sheep and get on their faces. They even crawl in their noses! Eww! That would feel terrible. A good shepherd may put oil mixed with other ingredients on the sheep's heads to keep the bugs away.

# 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

Show the play animals. 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: Now You See It

## DIRECTIONS

Share the teaching tie-in. Place the tray on a table where the children can see all the objects. Point to each object and explain what it represents. Tell everyone to close their eyes. Choose a volunteer to open their eyes and remove one object to hide in their lap or give to you. When you say to open their eyes, ask the children if they can tell what item is missing from the tray.

## TEACHING TIE-IN

Did you know sheep aren't just cute creatures but are really useful to us? God thought of everything when he made sheep! We get things like milk and cheese and butter, but we also get things like clothes and tape from sheep. Let's take a look at some of these things.

# 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 they see lots of rainbows. When I think of rainbows, I think of God, who gave us rainbows as a sign that he keeps his promises. In Psalm 23, God promises his children that goodness and mercy will follow us all our lives, and we'll live in the house of the Lord forever. What a wonderful promise!

# 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'll live with God in heaven if we're part of his family.

# 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?