

Day 1: Sheep Farm in Donegal

Teacher: Hello everyone! Come on over and sit down. *Do so.* My name is _____. This week at VBS, we're going to pretend to take a trip to a country called Ireland. Say that name with me. *Do so.* *Point to the MAP OF IRELAND POSTER.* We'll learn about different places in Ireland. Let's go catch our plane! *Have the children stand and jog in place with you, then spread arms out to "fly."* Hooray! We're here. Now let's call my friend Paddy and let him/her know we made it to Ireland. *Do so.*

Puppet: *Come up. Wave.* Top o' the mornin' (evenin') to ya. Welcome to Ireland. I heard you'd be talking a lot about sheep this week. So today, we're visiting my grandpa's sheep farm in the town of Donegal.

Teacher: *Uncover the Day 1 Sheep Farm picture on the MAP OF IRELAND.* That's right, Paddy. Thanks for showing us around.

Puppet: I'm happy to have you here. Ireland has lots of sheep and lots of green grass for them to eat. Can you hear the sheep on this farm? What sound do sheep make? *Pause for "baa."*

Teacher: We're learning about Psalm 23 in the Bible. *Show open Bible.* It has a lot to say about sheep and shepherds.

Puppet: Kids, do you know what a shepherd is? *Take answers.* A shepherd, like me, is someone who takes care of sheep. I've been out in the fields today trying to find a lost sheep.

Teacher: Oh no! That's not good!

Puppet: I had a whole pasture full of sheep. But I had to leave them to go look for the one that wandered off.

Teacher: Did you find him?

Puppet: I sure did. He was down by the bridge munching on grass.

Teacher: That reminds me of a story in the Bible that Jesus told about a lost sheep.

Puppet: You mean the one about the man who had 100 sheep?

Teacher: Yes. One sheep got lost. So the shepherd left all his other sheep and went to find the lost one. And he found it! *(Luke 15:4-7)*

Puppet: I found my lost sheep too.

Teacher: The shepherd in the story was super happy and had a party.

Puppet: I was happy, too, when I found my sheep this morning. In fact, I did a happy dance like this . . . *Do a crazy dance.*

Teacher: Jesus told that story because *we* are like sheep who are lost because of sin. Sin is not obeying God and wandering away from him. But we can stay close to God when we follow Jesus. He's the Good Shepherd. We follow him by believing in him and then doing what's right.

Puppet: I'm glad Jesus is the Good Shepherd! I know a song about the sheep Jesus talked about in his story. Will you sing it with me? *Sing and dance with the music.*

Song 1: Oh Where, Oh Where Has My Little Sheep Gone?

VERSE 1

Oh where, oh where has my little sheep gone? *(Put your hand above your eyes and "search")*
Oh where, oh where can he be? *(Repeat)*

Of the hundred sheep, one has wandered off. *(Use your two fingers to make a sheep wandering off)*
Oh where, oh where can he be?
(Repeat first motion)

VERSE 2

Oh where, oh where has my little sheep gone? *(Repeat first motion of verse 1)*

Oh where, oh where can he be? *(Repeat)*

I will go to look for my little lost sheep. *(March)*

Oh where, oh where can he be?
(Repeat first motion)

VERSE 3

I've found my sheep, I will bring him home. *(Smile and put "sheep" around your neck)*

How happy, happy I'll be. *(Smile as you bob your head to each side)*

Let's rejoice, be glad, the lost sheep is found. *(Jump up and down)*

How happy, happy we'll be.
(Bob your head from side to side)

Repeat Verse 1

Teacher: That was great, kids!

Puppet: Thanks for singing with me! See you tomorrow! *Exit.*

Day 2: David and Goliath

Puppet: *Turn on the Irish jig music. Make Paddy dance to the music as he/she enters.*

Teacher: Hey, what are you doing?

Puppet: I'm dancing a jig. It's a dance we like to do here in Ireland.

Teacher: Fun! But why are you dancing a jig?

Puppet: Because today is my birthday! *Stop music and dancing.*

Teacher: It is? Kids, let's say "happy birthday" to Paddy. *Do so.*

Puppet: Thanks, everyone. I just got a very special gift. I was so excited, I felt like dancing.

Teacher: What was your special gift?

Puppet: I got a brand-new Bible. It's the most special book in the world.

Teacher: That's wonderful.

Puppet: Hey! Let's tell the kids about David in the Bible. He wrote Psalm 23, right?

Teacher: That's right. Before David was a king, he was a shepherd. David believed in God and loved God. He tried to obey God by doing what was right.

Puppet: Did David ever get scared?

Teacher: We all are afraid sometimes. But David knew God would take care of him. David trusted God even when he had to fight off bears and lions that tried to eat his sheep.

Puppet: David had to fight mean enemies, too, like Goliath. He was a giant who stood over 9 feet tall!

Teacher: Let's check out how tall that is on this wall. If Goliath were standing here, his face would be way up there! *Point out the GOLIATH PICTURE on the wall.* God helped David fight Goliath and win. It's right here in the Bible. *Point to your open Bible.* Tell us about it, Paddy.

Puppet: There were two groups of people—Goliath was with the Philistines, and David was with the Israelites. Goliath and his people didn't believe in God or obey him. But David and his people were God's special people.

Teacher: One day, they were getting ready to fight each other. The Philistines sent out Goliath to scare the Israelites. Goliath was big and strong. Kids, show us your strong muscles. *Do so.*

Puppet: Goliath shouted at the Israelites, *(in a deep voice)* "Send someone out to fight me!"

Teacher: But the Israelites were afraid of Goliath. Can you kids show us your scared face? *Do so.* No one wanted to fight him. They were so afraid because they forgot that God would guide them.

Puppet: But David remembered how great and mighty God is. He knew he could trust God to help him win. So he said, "I'll fight Goliath!"

Teacher: Even though David didn't have all the armor and a fancy spear like Goliath, he had something much more important—

Puppet: David had God with him!

Teacher: Right! As a shepherd, David used a sling to shoot stones at wild animals to keep his sheep safe. But on this day, David used his sling to fight Goliath. *Show the DAVID AND GOLIATH POSTER.*

Puppet: Ooh! Here comes my favorite part.

Teacher: David put a stone in the sling and whipped that sling around super fast. Let's act out that sling move. *Raise arm up or to the side and move in a circle, then push hand forward in front of you.* All it took was one stone! It flew through the air and hit Goliath on the forehead.

Puppet: And Goliath fell down. *Puppet falls down face forward, then pops back up to continue.* David beat Goliath! David fought the enemy and won because he followed God.

Teacher: The Bible helps us to follow God as our Good Shepherd. When we read or listen to the Bible, we'll learn how to trust and obey God the way David did.

Puppet: I'm glad I have a Bible of my own now so I can learn to follow God every day. Oh, I hear my border collie barking. I better get back to the farm and gather the sheep. But first, will you sing a farm song with me?

Teacher: Sure! Let's stand up and sing with Paddy. *Do so.*

Song 2: Old MacDonald

VERSE 1

Old MacDonald had a farm
(Enthusiastically march in place, pumping arms and legs)
E-I-E-I-O *(Clap three times)*
And on that farm he had some sheep *(March in place)*
E-I-E-I-O *(Clap three times)*
With a baa, baa here *(Turn head to the left and "baa")*
And a baa, baa there *(Turn head to the right and "baa")*
Here a baa, there a baa
(Turn head to the left and right and "baa")
Everywhere a baa, baa *(Face the front and "baa")*
Old MacDonald had a farm *(March in place)*
E-I-E-I-O *(Clap three times)*

VERSE 2

Old MacDonald had a farm
(Enthusiastically march in place, pumping arms and legs)
E-I-E-I-O *(Clap three times)*
And on that farm he had a shepherd *(March in place)*
E-I-E-I-O *(Clap three times)*
With a rod and staff here
(Turn to the left and pretend to hold a staff)
And a rod and staff there *(Turn to the right with pretend staff)*
Here a rod, there a staff
(Turn to the left, then right with pretend staff)
Everywhere a rod and staff
(Face the front with the pretend staff)
Old MacDonald had a farm *(March in place)*
E-I-E-I-O *(Clap three times)*

VERSE 3

Old MacDonald had a farm *(Enthusiastically march in place, pumping arms and legs)*
E-I-E-I-O *(Clap three times)*
And on that farm he had a collie *(March in place)*
E-I-E-I-O *(Clap three times)*
With a ruff, ruff here *(Turn head to the left and bark)*
And a ruff, ruff there *(Turn head to the right and bark)*

Here a ruff, there a ruff

(Turn head to the left, then right and bark)

Everywhere a ruff, ruff *(Face the front and bark)*

Old MacDonald had a farm *(March in place)*

E-I-E-I-O *(Clap three times)*

VERSE 4

Old MacDonald had a farm *(Enthusiastically march in place, pumping arms and legs)*

E-I-E-I-O *(Clap three times)*

And on that farm he had a pasture *(March in place)*

E-I-E-I-O *(Clap three times)*

With a green field here

(Move left hand horizontally to the left to show the pasture)

And a green field there *(Do the same to the right)*

Here a field, there a field

(Do the same to the left, then right)

Everywhere a green field

(Face center and spread out both hands horizontally)

Old MacDonald had a farm *(March in place)*

E-I-E-I-O *(Clap three times)*

VERSE 5

Old MacDonald had a farm

(Enthusiastically march in place, pumping arms and legs)

E-I-E-I-O *(Clap three times)*

And on that farm he had some water *(March in place)*

E-I-E-I-O *(Clap three times)*

With a drip, drip here *(Use left hand and touch thumb and third finger together twice on the words "drip")*

And a drip, drip there *(Do the same with the right fingers)*

Here a drip, there a drip

(Do the same with left, then right fingers)

Everywhere a drip, drip *(Face the center and do it with both hands' thumbs and third fingers)*

Old MacDonald had a farm *(March in place)*

E-I-E-I-O *(Clap three times)*

VERSE 6

Old MacDonald had a farm

(Enthusiastically march in place, pumping arms and legs)

E-I-E-I-O *(Clap three times)*

And on that farm he had a path *(March in place)*

E-I-E-I-O *(Clap three times)*

With a clip, clop here

(Move your left foot, then right foot to the left)

And a clip, clop there

(Move your left foot, then right foot to the right)

Here a clip, there a clop

(Step with the left foot, then the right)

Everywhere a clip, clop *(Face front and move your left foot, then right foot on "clip, clop")*

Old MacDonald had a farm *(March in place)*

E-I-E-I-O *(Clap three times)*

Puppet: That was great! See you all tomorrow. *Exit.*

Teacher: Bye, Paddy!

Day 3: The Rod and Staff

Puppet: *Come out with mini rod and staff in hands.* Top o' the mornin' (evenin')! I heard you were talking about how sheep might be afraid. I want to show you my shepherd's rod and staff.

Teacher: David wrote about a shepherd's rod and staff. He said they were comforting.

Puppet: A rod and staff helped shepherds keep their sheep safe, so the sheep would feel comforted and not be afraid.

Teacher: I also have a (picture/examples) of what a rod and staff look like. *Show the ROD AND STAFF PICTURE or your examples.*

Puppet: The rod was used to protect the sheep. When a wolf came around looking for a sheep dinner, the shepherd could throw the rod at the wolf or swat it to scare it away.

Teacher: Like this? *Place the stuffed animal wolf near the wall, then swat it with the rod.*

Puppet: Yep, just like that. You can also count sheep with the rod to make sure they're all there and none is lost.

Teacher: Let's count. Kids, you can be my sheep. *Use the rod to gently tap each child's shoulder and count together.*

Puppet: A shepherd would use a staff to guide a sheep that was going off the path and use the hook to bring it away from danger.

Teacher: *Show how a staff would be used to gently guide a sheep (an adult volunteer) by tapping on his side as you walk by and then using the hook to gently pull him back.*

Puppet: When a shepherd used the rod and staff, his sheep didn't need to be scared.

Teacher: Sometimes we can be like sheep and get scared too. But our Good Shepherd, Jesus, can help us.

Puppet: That's good to know because I still get scared sometimes. Like one time a huge spider ran up my leg.

Teacher: Yikes! That's scary. What did you do?

Puppet: I jumped around and screamed a lot, like this: *Demonstrate crazy jumping and silly screaming.*

Teacher: Oh! I see. Kids, are any of you afraid of spiders? Let's do a silly scream like Paddy. *Do so.*

Puppet: I also get scared of the dark and monsters under the bed and loud thunderstorms! *Make thunder noises, "Boom-kaboom!"*

Teacher: We all feel scared, or fearful, sometimes just like David did when Saul was chasing him. But did you know God tells us in the Bible what to do when we're afraid?

Puppet: It does?

Teacher: Yep! *Show your open Bible.* The Bible says not be anxious, which means scared or worried. Instead you should talk to God and tell him why you're scared.

Puppet: So when I feel worried or scared, I should pray to God?

Teacher: Right! Don't worry . . . just pray. God can help us go from being fearful to feeling quiet, calm, and peaceful.

Puppet: What else does it say in the Bible?

Teacher: The Bible says we should think about things that are true.

Puppet: It's true that God loves you.

Teacher: Yes! We should also think about things that are lovely and good.

Puppet: Like flowers and birds and the good things God gives you?

Teacher: Right. Think about those good things and how good God is instead of scary stuff.

Puppet: Wow! Tonight, I'm *not* going to think about monsters under my bed. They're just pretend. Instead, I'm going to think about how good and kind and loving God is.

Teacher: We can also talk to God and tell him some good things we're thankful for.

Puppet: Hmm, today I had pizza—yum! And I had fun playing with my dog. Oh! I got a super big hug from my mom too.

Teacher: Terrific! Think about those good things and tell God thank you for them. Think about Jesus, the Good Shepherd. He's right there with you wherever you are.

Puppet: This reminds me of an old song my grandpa used to sing out in the fields with the sheep.

Teacher: Let's sing it together.

Song 2: Shepherd in the Dell

Explain that a dell is a small valley. Shepherds may lead their sheep through a valley. They use their rod and their staff to guide their sheep.

VERSE 1

The shepherd in the dell *(Walk in place)*
The shepherd in the dell *(Repeat)*
Hi, ho, the derry-o *(Clap)*
The shepherd in the dell *(Walk in place)*

VERSE 2

The shepherd's with his sheep *(Walk in place, then make little sheep on the word sheep by wiggling your second and third fingers back and forth on both hands)*
The shepherd's with his sheep *(Repeat)*
Hi, ho, the derry-o *(Clap)*
The shepherd's with his sheep *(Repeat)*

VERSE 3

The shepherd takes his rod
(Walk in place, then hold a pretend rod)
The shepherd takes his rod *(Repeat)*
Hi, ho, the derry-o *(Clap)*
The shepherd takes his rod *(Repeat)*

VERSE 4

The shepherd takes his staff
(Walk in place, then pretend to "hook" a sheep with the staff)
The shepherd takes his staff *(Repeat)*
Hi, ho, the derry-o *(Clap)*
The shepherd takes his staff *(Repeat)*

Teacher: Great singing! Let's say bye to Paddy. *Do so while Puppet exits.*

Day 4: Enemy Area in Dublin

Teacher: Nice to see you again, lads and lasses. Are you enjoying our pretend trip around Ireland? *Show the* MAP OF IRELAND POSTER. Today, we're visiting a city called Dublin. Our friend Paddy is here to tell us about it.

Puppet: Top o' the mornin' (evenin'), kids! Did you know that the city of Dublin was attacked by an enemy? A long time ago, some people called the Vikings came to Ireland.

Teacher: *Uncover the Day 4 Enemy Territory picture on the map.* Kids, have you ever heard of the Vikings? *Show the* VIKING PICTURES.

Puppet: Well, the Vikings were enemies of Ireland. And the Irish people couldn't fight them. So the Vikings took over some of the land, like the city of Dublin.

Teacher: This reminds me of another thing about sheep. Sheep can't fight their enemies very well, can they?

Puppet: Well, if an enemy comes, sheep may kick at it to keep it away. They might huddle close together (*puppet hugs himself*) or run around scared, like this (*runs back and forth*).

Teacher: Here are pictures of some enemies that bother sheep. *Show* ANIMAL ENEMIES PICTURES *as mentioned.*

Puppet: Foxes and wolves try to eat sheep. But a good shepherd chases them away, using his rod or staff.

Teacher: Remember, the Bible says we are like sheep. Who is our Good Shepherd? *Take responses.* Jesus is the Good Shepherd who takes care of us.

Puppet: Another enemy that makes life hard for the sheep is a bug called a nose bot fly. These flies buzz around the sheep and even crawl up their nose! *Do an exaggerated sneeze.* So a good shepherd might rub oil mixed with other ingredients all over a sheep's head and nose so the flies won't bother it.

Teacher: *Show the* SHEPHERD PROVIDES POSTER. Psalm 23 says God anoints our head with oil. That's kind of like what a good shepherd does for his sheep.

Puppet: A shepherd also makes sure there's good food and lots of fresh water for the sheep. He may fill a large bucket from a well to overflowing so the sheep have all the water they need.

Teacher: God gives us good things too. He cares for us not just a little but a lot—to overflowing! Sometimes we grumble and whine about stuff, don't we? But we should instead be thanking God for his goodness to us! *If using the* CROSSING SIGNS, *reference them now.*

Puppet: Talking about food and water and oil reminds me of a song my grandpa sang whenever he would light up his old oil lamp at night. Let's sing it together!

Song 1: Give Me Oil in My Lamp

VERSE 1

Give me oil in my lamp (*Touch your thumb and third fingers together twice on "oil" and "in," then act like you are pouring it in your lamp on the word lamp*)

Keep me burning, burning, burning
(*Wiggle fingers on "burning, burning, burning"*)

Give me oil in my lamp, I pray

(*Repeat first line, then make praying hands*)

Give me oil in my lamp (*Repeat first line*)

Keep me burning, burning, burning (*Repeat second line*)

Keep me burning till the break of day (*Repeat second line, then fling hands out to make a big semicircle*)

CHORUS

Sing hosanna (*Wave both arms back and forth over your head
in time to the music*)

Sing hosanna (*Repeat*)

Sing hosanna to the King of kings
(*Repeat, then put a crown on your head*)

Sing hosanna (*Repeat*)

Sing hosanna (*Repeat*)

Sing hosanna to the King (*Repeat*)

Repeat whole song

Puppet: Great singing! I'll see you tomorrow. *Exit.*

Teacher: Bye, Paddy!

Day 5: Promise Keeper

Teacher: I wonder what Paddy's up to today. Kids, help me call Paddy. *Do so.*

Puppet: *Come up with a block taped to its hand.* Top o' the mornin' (evenin')!

Teacher: Hi! It looks like you've got a building block there.

Puppet: Yeah, I was just counting my blocks to see how many I have to build a house. Sometimes it's a little shaky and falls down if I don't have enough blocks on the bottom.

Teacher: The strong part on the bottom is called the foundation. Did you know Jesus said we should use God's Word, the Bible, as the foundation for our life? If we don't do what God's Word says, our life can feel shaky, and we won't know what we should do. But if we follow what God says in the Bible, we can be sure that Jesus will guide us and help us do what's right.

Puppet: So if you follow Jesus, the Good Shepherd, your life will go from shaky to sure?

Teacher: *If using the CROSSING SIGNS, reference them now.* Yes. And we can be sure that God always keeps his promises, including the promise in Psalm 23 about the house of the Lord.

Puppet: *Pause and think.* Oh yeah, after the goodness and mercy part, Psalm 23 says, "I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever."

Teacher: Right! King David's son King Solomon built a house of the Lord here on earth. *Show the first half of the LORD'S HOUSE POSTER.* It was called a temple—kind of like a church. But something that's even more exciting is . . . there's *another* house of the Lord! *Show the second half of the LORD'S HOUSE POSTER.*

Puppet: I think I know where that is. Kids, do you think the house of the Lord is here or in heaven? *Take responses.*

Teacher: It's in heaven! When Psalm 23 talks about living in the house of the Lord forever, it means all of God's children—or people who trust in Jesus—will live there in heaven someday.

Puppet: Wow! Is that for sure?

Teacher: God said it, so we can know for sure because God is a promise keeper. The Bible tells about another promise God made a long, long time ago. God had to flood the whole world with water to punish sin. But he kept Noah and many animals safe on a huge ship called an ark.

Puppet: But after the flood was over, God promised he would never flood the world like that again. And he has kept his promise ever since then.

Teacher: That's right. God put a big rainbow in the sky to remind Noah and all of us that God always keeps his promises!

Puppet: So that's what a rainbow means!

Teacher: Yep. Rainbows remind us that God keeps every promise.

Puppet: Here in Ireland, people like to pretend that there's a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow.

Teacher: Oh, that would be fun to find a pot of gold. But we all know that's not true.

Puppet: Yeah, it's just for fun.

Teacher: Having fun with rainbows is great—they're beautiful. But sometimes people use rainbows for things that are wrong.

Puppet: Well, I'm glad the ones I see in the sky are God's real rainbows! They are so beautiful. Kids, when you see a rainbow in the sky, remember that God is a promise keeper, and you really *will* live with him in heaven some day if you are his child!

Teacher: Admit that you've done wrong things and tell God you're sorry. Believe in Jesus and receive him. Jesus will take away your sins, and you'll be God's child forever in heaven.

Puppet: Hey, that reminds me of a song about the only way to get to heaven. Sing it with me!

Song 2: I've Been Redeemed

This is an echo song, so the leader sings it and the kids echo it back as noted. Explain that "redeemed" means to be a child of God. The only way to be a child of God is to admit, believe, and forever receive.

CHORUS

I've been redeemed *(Kids echo)*
By the blood of the Lamb *(Kids echo)*
I've been redeemed *(Kids echo)*
By the blood of the Lamb
(Everyone sings together)
I've been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb
(Everyone sings together while clapping)
Filled with the Holy Spirit I am *(Sing together and clap)*
All my sins are washed away *(Sing together and clap)*
I've been redeemed—praise the Lord!
(Sing together and clap, then raise hands on "praise the Lord")

VERSE 1

Oh you can't get to heaven *(Kids echo)*
In a rockin' chair *(Kids echo)*
Oh you can't get to heaven *(Kids echo)*
In a rockin' chair *(Everyone sings together)*
Oh you can't get to heaven in a rockin' chair *(Everyone sings together while rocking back and forth)*
Cuz' you'll rock and rock, but you won't get there
(Sing together while rocking, then shrug shoulders)
All my sins are washed away *(Sing together and clap)*
I've been redeemed—praise the Lord!
(Sing together and clap, then raise hands on "praise the Lord")

VERSE 2

Oh you can't get to heaven *(Kids echo)*
In an old, old car *(Kids echo)*
Oh you can't get to heaven *(Kids echo)*
In an old, old car *(Everyone sings together)*
Oh you can't get to heaven in an old, old car *(Everyone sings together while pretending to turn a steering wheel)*
Cuz' an old, old car won't go that far
(Sing together and steer, then shrug)
All my sins are washed away *(Sing together and clap)*
I've been redeemed—praise the Lord!
(Sing together and clap, then raise hands on "praise the Lord")

VERSE 3

Oh you can't get to heaven *(Kids echo)*
In a rocket ship *(Kids echo)*
Oh you can't get to heaven *(Kids echo)*
In a rocket ship *(Everyone sings together)*
Oh you can't get to heaven in a rocket ship *(Everyone sings together while shooting hand up)*
Cuz' a rocket ship won't make that trip
(Sing together and shoot hand up, then down and shrug)
All my sins are washed away
(Sing together and clap)
I've been redeemed—praise the Lord!
(Sing together and clap, then raise hands on "praise the Lord")

Repeat the chorus

Teacher: Thank you, Paddy. You helped us learn a lot this week about sheep and about the Good Shepherd, Jesus.

Puppet: I've sure enjoyed meeting all of you and telling you about my home here in Ireland. Thanks so much! Goodbye! *Exit.*