

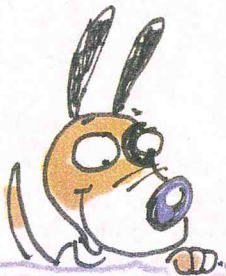


Jesus explains his shepherd speech



GOSPEL THEME

Good Christian leaders are like good shepherds; they take care of those who follow them.



Jesus left people pretty confused when he started talking about shepherds and sheep. He preached about the qualities needed by good shepherds. The confusion arose when he said he himself was a shepherd. People knew Jesus had been a carpenter and was now a preacher. No one had ever seen him herding sheep. People wondered what in the world he could know about sheep.

Here's Jesus' explanation of what he meant: "It's true that I have never tended a flock of sheep in my life, and I didn't mean to imply that my job is to be a shepherd. My job is to lead people to God—to show them how to live so that their lives will be the best they can be. But there are many similarities between

the qualities of a good shepherd and of a good leader. I was trying to point them out in my talk about the good shepherd.

"As I said, a good shepherd can be trusted to lead his sheep in the right direction. The sheep know his voice and feel safe following him. It is only by following the good shepherd that the sheep will reach their proper destination.

"It's the same with a good leader. Good leaders always take care of their followers. Followers can trust a good leader's words. I lead my people like a good shepherd leads sheep. It is only in trusting my words and following me that people will learn how to live life to the fullest and reach God."

C O N S I D E R A T E A E I M
D H L P T X A E I L F B Y U Q
U S E N S I T I V E P T G S M
L U F E C A E P A E I N J F L
Y B X W C G O H D N I K O D O
F L K P E R U Z F D W O V T V
Y M Q U N X O E N C R V S L I
E N T H U S I A S T I C N G N
L O Y G E N T L E U X T D E G
C A Q N P S W B I C M E I N H
R M R G R I P R C A Z L Y R T
I T O E J V E Y N G R A S S K
A O D L N E W I C Y Q Y Z N J
F N R W Z D H K R G C O V S O
U C G C A R I N G K N L J F B

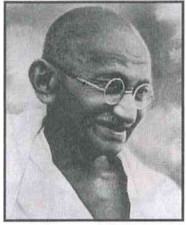
Leadership SEARCH

Hidden in the square to the left are eleven important qualities for a good shepherd. How many can you find and circle?

Here is the list of words to be found:

CONSIDERATE	UNDERSTANDING
KIND	CARING
GENTLE	LOVING
FAIR	SENSITIVE
ENTHUSIASTIC	PEACEFUL
LOYAL	

OTHER GREAT LEADERS LIKE JESUS



Mohandas Gandhi

Mohandas Gandhi was a Hindu spiritual leader from India. His followers called him *Mahatma*, which means "great soul." Gandhi did not approve of the Indian government's treatment of certain citizens called *untouchables*. The untouchables in India had no rights. They weren't even allowed to look rich people in the face.

Gandhi did not think this was a good way for any government to treat its people, and he let the whole world know how he felt. He did not, however, believe in using violence to make his point. Instead he told the people to protest by peaceful methods. Until the day he was assassinated, Gandhi worked for the rights of his people.

After the war, Focolare continued to grow. Today, Focolare centers are found around the world. Some members live together and others meet in one another's homes.



Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Even after Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves, the African-Americans in the United States were not truly free. There were places where they had to use separate drinking fountains, washrooms, and other facilities. In some states, African-Americans were not allowed to sit in the front of the bus, and their children were not allowed to go to the same schools as other children.

A man who fought against this unfair treatment of millions of Americans was **Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.** Like Gandhi, King believed in peaceful methods of protest. He led the people in staging "sit-ins." They would go to places that did not allow African-Americans, and then they would just sit there.

King spoke beautifully to his people of the day when all would be equal and truly free. Like Abraham Lincoln, Mohandas Gandhi, and Jesus, Martin Luther King was killed for his beliefs.



Pope John XXIII

Pope John XXIII was an important leader of our Catholic Church. In the early 1960s he called for a big meeting of Church leaders to talk about new things to help bring people closer to God. This meeting was called the Second Vatican Council.

Because of the Council, many things in the Catholic Church are different from the way they were many years ago. Because of the Council, you now hear the words of the priest at Mass in your own language instead of Latin. Because of the Council, laypeople play important roles in the Mass.

Pope John did not change things like Jesus in the Eucharist or the gospels that teach us about him. But he did change our ways to worship God so that you could know and love God better.



Chiara Lubich

In 1943, Italy was in the midst of a great war. A young teacher named **Chiara Lubich** met with friends every day to pray for those who had lost their homes in the war. "Is there anything the bombs cannot destroy?" they wondered. The answer came — "Yes, there is God."

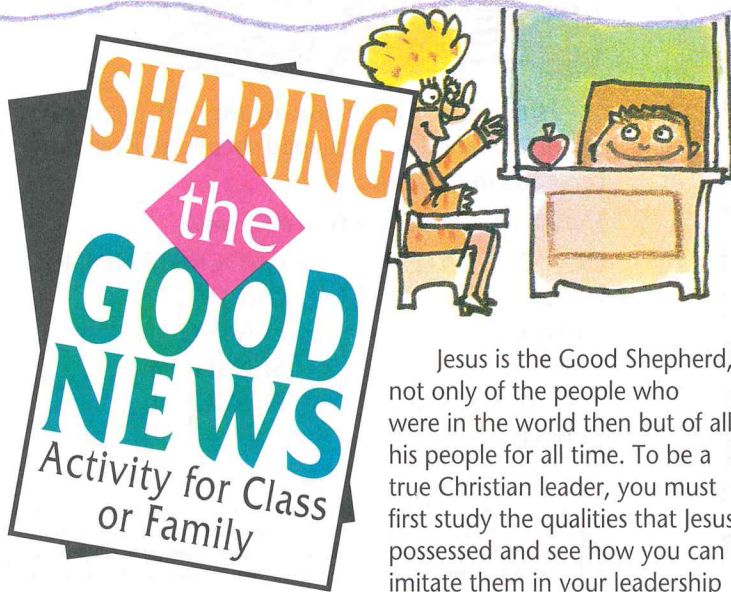
Chiara and her friends made God their ideal. They chose words from the gospel to live by daily. Neighbors and friends, amazed at their joy, joined them. Chiara named her group *Focolare*, which means "fireside."

Now It's YOUR TURN



Can you name a leader in your own life who follows the way of Jesus, our Good Shepherd?

Suppose you were chosen to be the leader of your class or the head of your family this week. In what ways would you follow Jesus, our Good Shepherd, in your leadership? What things would you want to change? How would you do it?



Jesus is the Good Shepherd, not only of the people who were in the world then but of all his people for all time. To be a true Christian leader, you must first study the qualities that Jesus possessed and see how you can imitate them in your leadership

responsibilities. This week play **Follow the Leader** to practice following in the footsteps of our Good Shepherd.

1 Choose different people to "role play" leading the class or family. Teachers and parents should sit where a child normally sits to help them remember what it's like to be a child.

2 It is the leader's responsibility to see that everyone acts according to Jesus' laws of love. The leader should say what he or she would like the group to do or not do.

3 If there are any disagreements, the leader gets to decide how the disagreement should be settled.

4 At the end of each person's turn as leader, discuss how it felt to be a leader. How did it feel having so much responsibility? How close did each leader come to following Jesus in their leadership styles?

5 Write a prayer thanking God for the protection and love of Jesus, our Good Shepherd for all time.

Family Page



explaining GOD'S WORD

Fourth Sunday of Easter (A) • John 10:1-10 • May 3, 2020

We all know the term good shepherd as it refers to Jesus. In today's gospel, Jesus says of the good shepherd, "He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out." It is a beautiful thought. Jesus calls each of us by name and leads us to the Father.

We too are called to be shepherds for those around us, to follow Jesus in his way of love. Here are some ideas.

Jesus was speaking to a great crowd on the mountaintop. One of the disciples mentioned to him that it was getting late and the people had nothing to eat. Jesus told them to sit down, multiplied a few loaves and fishes, and fed them all.

You can be good shepherds by sharing your food with others. This week, when you grocery shop, purchase one extra bag of groceries to be given to the hungry.

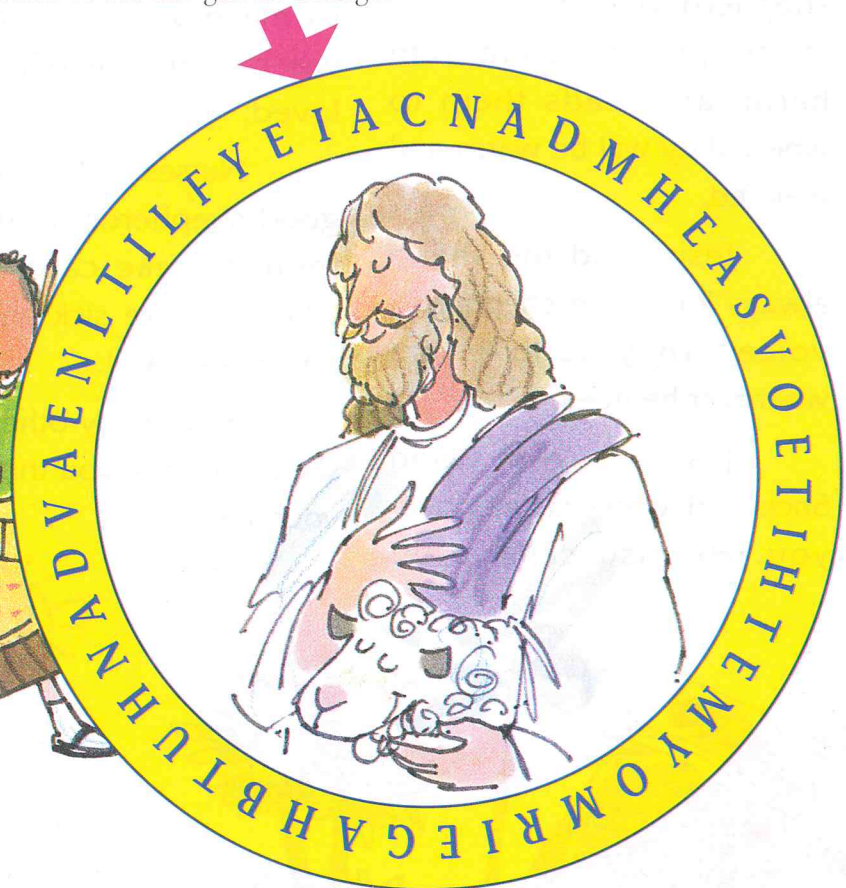
Another time when Jesus was speaking to the crowd, some children came up and tried to touch him. The disciples tried to send them away. But Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

You can be good shepherds by caring for small children. This week, have the youngsters look through their toys and games and decide what they can share with less fortunate children. Adults and older children can volunteer some time working in the nursery during Mass.

Think about other ways that you can follow Jesus and be good shepherds!



Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He came to bring a gift to all of his sheep. Beginning at the arrow, read every other letter to see the gift he brings.



What Will Heaven Be Like?

Do you ever wonder what heaven is like? Do you ever ask yourself, "How do people get to heaven? How can I know the right way?"

Jesus says, "I AM the way! Follow me and do what I have done."

Jesus led the way in helping people.

When a classmate drops some books, do you follow Jesus and help pick them up?

Jesus led the way in sharing with the poor.

When your school collects clothes and toys for the poor, do you follow Jesus and give some of your things?

Jesus led the way in praying.

When you wake up each day, do you follow Jesus and say a prayer of thanks to God for another new day?

Jesus led the way in forgiving others.

When someone hurts your feelings, do you follow Jesus and forgive them?

Jesus led the way in visiting the sick and helping them.

When someone you know is sick, do you follow Jesus and go to see them or send them a card?



If you follow Jesus, you will find the way to heaven.

Happiness is the beautiful promise of today's gospel story.

And HEAVEN is what happiness is really all about.



HEAVENLY SIGNS

Here are some things that will make you happy on earth and help you get to heaven. Can you unscramble them?

