



NURSERY TakeHome - A Parent Resource

As the primary spiritual nurturer of your home, this resource is designed to inspire, equip, and support you as you dig into God’s Word with your child and prepare him or her before attending church each week in March.

God Statement: *Jesus is My Shepherd*

Memory Verse: The Lord is my shepherd. Psalm 23

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DISCOVER

Your child is learning Jesus is the Shepherd of His sheep. Consider how much we, as grown-ups, need a Shepherd.

~**Read John 10:1-31.** These verses in John remind us how far Jesus went to make sure that He would be with us and for us to know Him! Thank God, with your child, for all the ways Jesus is your family’s Shepherd.

~**Read Psalm 23.** Talk about the ways this passage reveals your need for a shepherd. Use Psalm 23 as a prayer as you go throughout your day.

~**Read Found - Psalm 23** by Sally Lloyd Jones, a book we read with your child.

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EXPERIENCE

Use tape, pillows, or anything else on hand to create a pen for the sheep. Place sheep (cotton balls) around the room. Talk about how Jesus is a good shepherd. He cares for His sheep. Help your child find the scattered sheep. As sheep are found, your child can place them in the sheep pen. Once all the sheep have been found, say, “Jesus is my Shepherd!”

Continue to play as your child shows interest with animal sounds, more hide and seek, or a stuffed animal party!

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BLESS

A blessing can be a spoken prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words of encouragement and guidance over your child. For more information about blessing your child, see the **Blessing section** in HomeFront: A Spiritual Parenting Resource @ HomeFrontMag.com.

Blessing - *(Insert your child’s name)*, may you know that Jesus is a loving Shepherd who always takes care of you.

Child Responds - Jesus *(point up)* is my shepherd *(hug self)*.

FOLLOW

Your child may enjoy worshipping at home with some of the same songs we play during class.

Try, “Free As A Bee” song here:

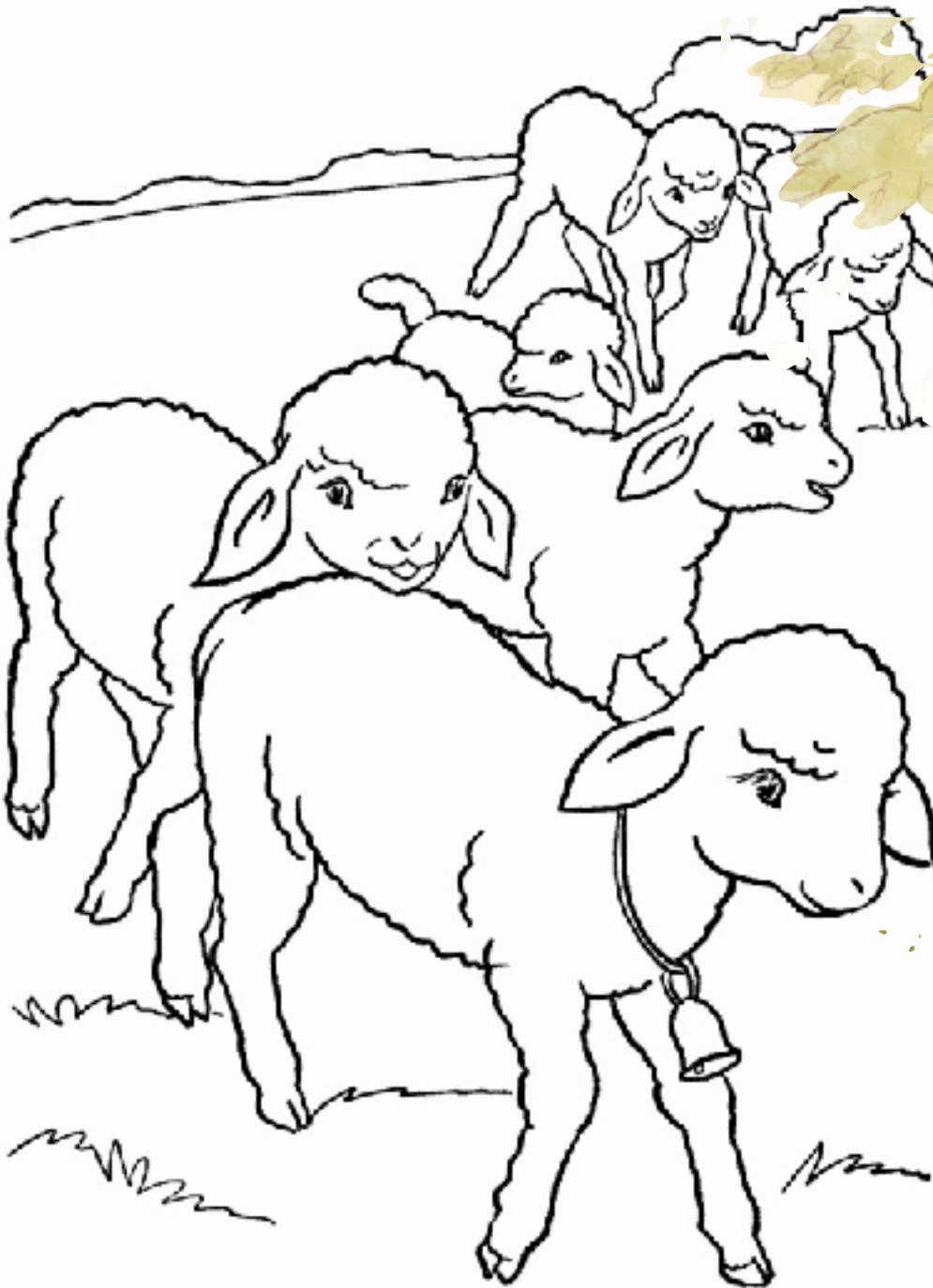
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUdoccCxMgw>

and other songs from the Hillsong Kids Jr. “Crazy Noise” CD.



We Bee-lieve...

JESUS IS MY SHEPHERD!



I will follow JESUS!

God Statement :: God is Faithful

Memory Verse :: *Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*

Lamentations 3:22-23

THIS WEEK

John the Baptist

Isaiah 40:3; Matthew 3, Mark 1:1-8

God was sending the promised Savior. When Jesus was born, God used shepherds to spread the word of His arrival. God also planned a special messenger who would prepare people's lives for the good news—Jesus. This messenger was John the Baptist. Everywhere John went, he began telling people to get ready for the Messiah. He encouraged them to repent of their sins to get ready to meet the promised Savior. John the Baptist spread the news everywhere he went. Many people listened to him and were baptized. They trusted in God and obeyed Him. God will give us everything we need to follow Jesus because God is Faithful.

Discover

- God promised to send the Savior, and John's role was to prepare the people for His arrival.
- John's striking appearance reinforced the remarkable message he proclaimed; he lived in the wilderness, his clothes were woven from camel hair, and he ate locusts and wild honey.
- While repentance—turning from sins—happens internally, the beauty of baptism is that it's an external sign of an internal reality.

Experience

During breakfast one morning, add honey to your meal (maybe on toast, on a muffin, in yogurt, or over cereal). Talk with your children about how breakfast is a meal that prepares you for your day. Share with them that you're going to read about someone in The Big God Story who got people ready for the good news of Jesus. Read the account of John the Baptist preparing the way in **Mark 1:1–8**.

Follow

After reading through **Mark 1:1-8**, discuss these questions together:

- What did people do when they heard John's message?
- How can I get ready for Jesus?
- How can you see God's faithfulness in your life?

These questions can easily extend into the rest of the week. Look for opportunities to have conversations about how God is Faithful in your everyday life.

Bless:

A blessing can be a spoken prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words of encouragement and guidance over your child. For more information about blessing your child, see the Blessing section in HomeFront: A Spiritual Parenting Resource @ HomeFrontMag.com.

A blessing to pray over your child:

(Child's Name), **may you know that your Heavenly Father loves you. May you know that our Big God is Faithful. May you follow the path God has for you and trust that He will guide you in the plans He has over your life.**

God is Faithful

