



FOURTH SUNDAY in EASTER (Year A 19-20)

Click on the link and see the video of the Good Shepherd

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=6&v=o0j7Ob0dLOI&feature=emb_logo

Prayer: *Lord help us to seek comfort and a feeling of safeness in our God.*

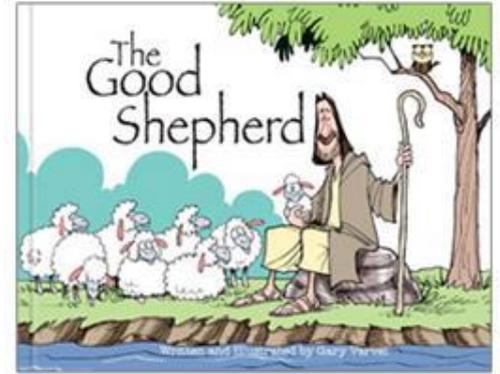
'THE GOOD SHEPHERD'

This Sunday is the 4th Sunday in Easter and today we hear another of the better-known stories.

Many of these stories / parables were easy to understand because of their simple tales of every-day life.

The story this week embraces the heart of what being part of God's family means.

Many of the stories of the bible including the Gospels and psalms refer to sheep and shepherds... a lot.



Many of the people in the time of Jesus were either fishermen or sheep & goat herders (Farmers).

The countryside was harsh and hilly at times, lush at other times and well suited to sheep and goat farming, not unlike some of our Australian land.

By telling these types of stories this allowed a message to be understood more easily.

Do you know other sheep / shepherd stories in the Gospels?
Perhaps the story of the 'lost sheep'?

Shepherds were required to feed and water their flock and find them shelter.

He ensured they didn't wander far from the flock and suffer from wolves or foxes attacking.

It was often very lonely.

Farms did not have very good fences to protect them against wild animals and intruders, or even people who might rob them of their sheep.

The shepherd knew how important it was to keep his animals safe. He was ever mindful of the importance of his role.

Jesus was and is our Shepherd; he guides us along the right path. Today we might call them good leaders!

We are like the sheep of the shepherd; we need guiding in our daily lives.

We need someone to care for us and keep us safe, help us make good decisions and always be not far away from us.

Our shepherd, our God is but a prayer away.

Just like the sheep we need someone to look out for us.

We need to rely on our God just as the sheep rely on the shepherd.

In the story this week Jesus said there is a relationship between those he cares for and he will lead them safely along life's journey.

We need a shepherd in our life, whether they are friend, parents or church or political leaders; we all need helpers.

Activities:

This week we will create a sheep reminding us our God will always look after the flock. There are also other activities for you to do.

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

Jesus said to his disciples:

"I tell you for certain that only thieves and robbers climb over the fence instead of going in through the gate to the sheep pen. But the gatekeeper opens the gate for the shepherd, and he goes in through it.

The sheep know their shepherd's voice.

He calls each of them by name and leads them out.

"When he has led out all of his sheep, he walks in front of them, and they follow, because they know his voice.

The sheep will not follow strangers.

They don't recognise a stranger's voice, and they run away."

Jesus told the people this story. But they did not understand what he was talking about.

Then Jesus said: "I tell you for certain that I am the gate for the sheep.

Everyone who came before me was a thief or a robber, and the sheep did not listen to any of them.

I am the gate. All who come in through me will be saved.

Through me they will come and go and find pasture.

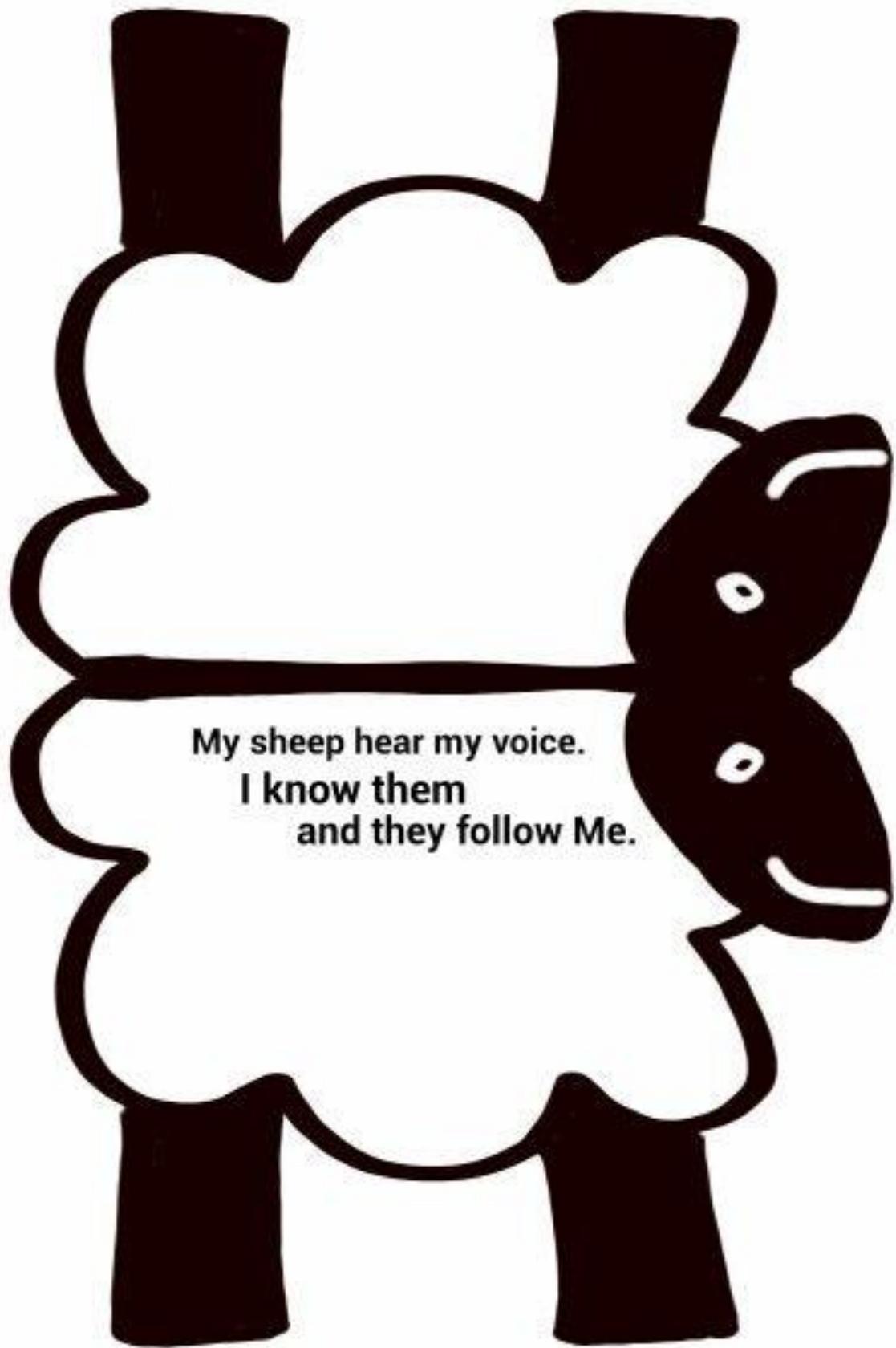
"A thief comes only to rob, kill, and destroy.

I came so that everyone would have life, and have it in its fullest."

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

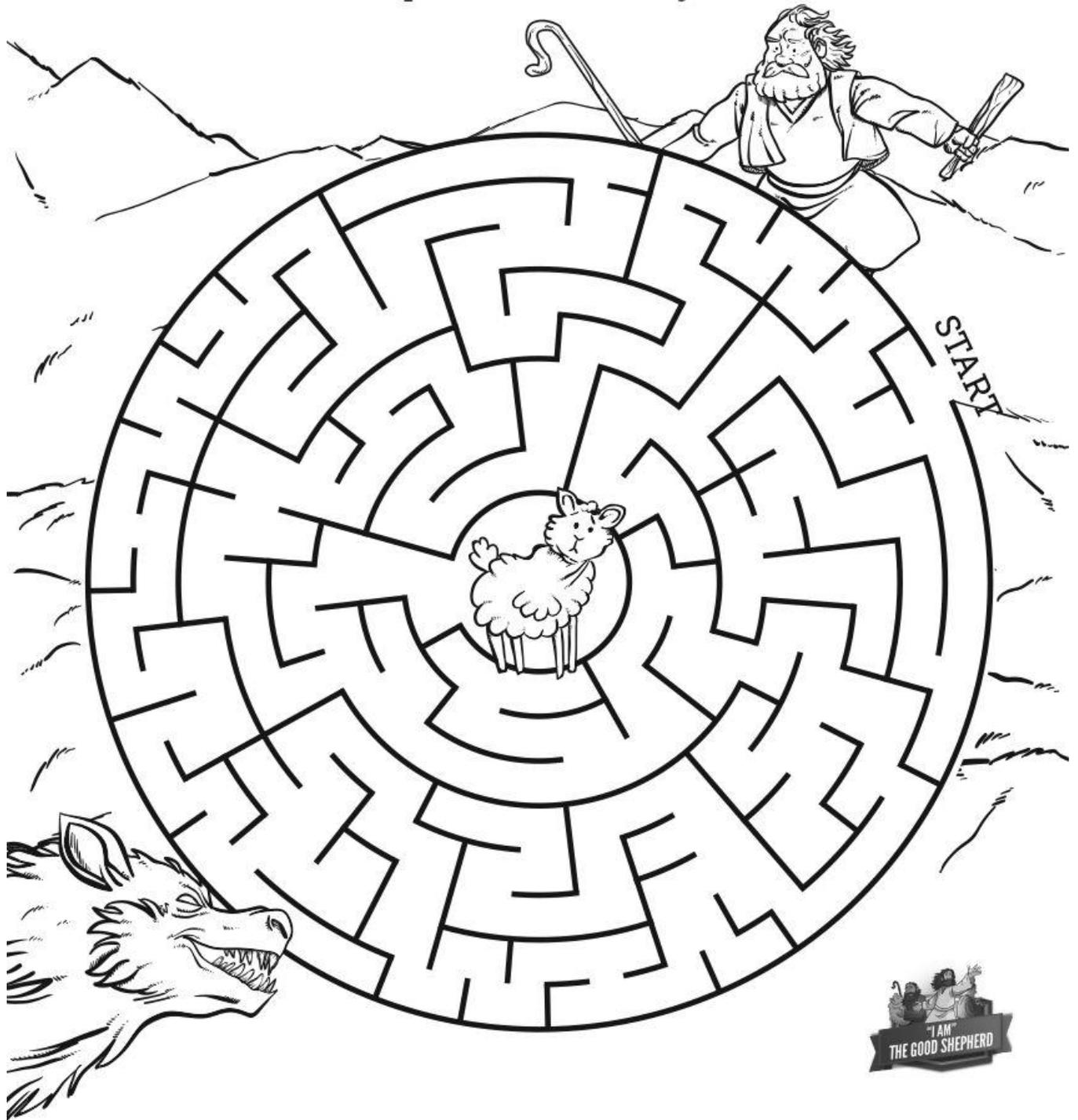




Cut the sheep out fold in half. Add some cotton wool for wool.

"I AM" THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Protect the sheep before the enemy reaches them.



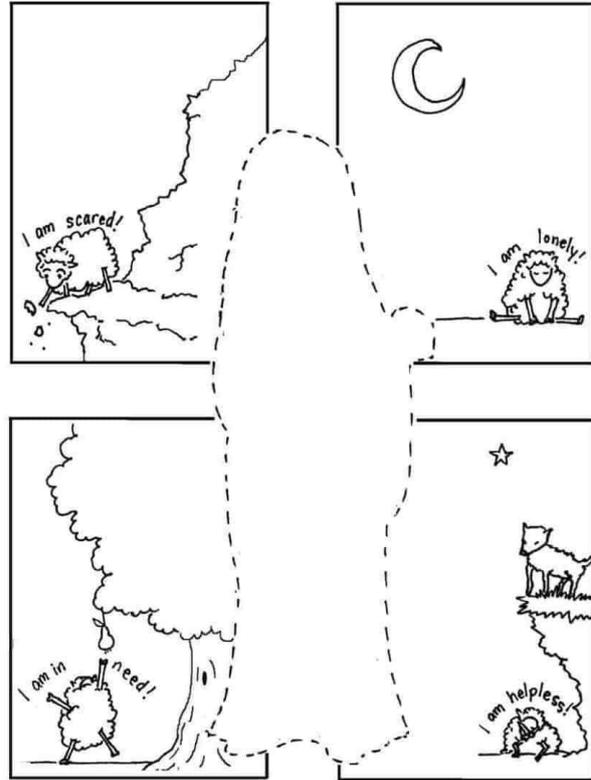
Cut out the Good Shepherd and add it to your picture on the right where it fits

Jesus is the Good Shepherd!



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GOOD SHEPHERD SHEEP WOLF
 VOICE ABANDONS FATHER LEAD
 FLOCK WILL POWER COMMAND

