



SESSION NINE

FEED MY SHEEP

BIG IDEA

Jesus wants us to show we

LOVE HIM BY CARING FOR OTHERS

He gave Peter the task to care for his followers.

PREP *(Kids can help!)*

- Find about 30 cotton balls
- Copy the lamb grid (from appendix) for each person
- Find a dice
- Buy a packet of small chocolate fish or a treat to share

WHAT GOES IN THE BOX?

- Put everything into the Faith Box before you start



INTRO

When Jesus was getting ready to go to heaven, he was careful to help his disciples prepare. Jesus taught them how to live without his physical presence, and depend instead on the Holy Spirit. He spoke to them about caring for one another like a shepherd cares for his sheep. Today's story is about Peter, and how God wants us to help one another.

GAME

We are going to start by playing a game where we are the sheep and there is a wolf who wants to catch us. The sheep have to protect one another to keep safe from the wolf.

Here are the rules!

The sheep can run around in the paddock but if the wolf tags them they are stuck (they can't move). They have to stand with their legs apart until another sheep comes to their rescue and frees them by crawling under their legs. The wolf's job is to try to get all the sheep stuck so they can't free one another. (This is a good outside game.)

- Choose the youngest child to be the wolf.

OUT OF THE BOX

The Bible talks about wolves that sometimes come and attack the sheep. These are bad things and bad people who try to tear us away from God. The sheep have to help one another stay safe from the wolves. We have to look out for each other and rescue one another if we get stuck.

If we have a pet (or our friend has a pet) what happens when we go away on holiday? Yes – we make sure we ask someone we trust to look after them while we are gone.

We make sure they have all the food that is needed to feed our pet. What other things might they need?

Questions

- **How would you care for a lamb? e.g. protect, lead to water**
- **What about an older sheep? e.g. give shade and medicine**

GAME

- Bring out the dice, and scatter the cotton wool balls on the floor or table.
- Explain that a flock of sheep has wandered off.
- Ask the children to care for the sheep by gathering them back together as quickly as possible (tell them how many cotton balls they should each gather).
- Then hand out the lamb grids from the appendix. Ask each child to decide if theirs is a lamb or an older sheep.
- Everyone takes a turn throwing the dice. They place a cotton ball in the space on their grid that corresponds to the number they throw and then read out what it says. The first child to fill all his spaces on the grid wins (non-competitive option: play until everyone has at least one cotton ball on every number).

Taking care of sheep involves the important tasks of feeding them and keeping them safe from danger.

Taking care of people is a bit the same. For us to grow up to be the people God made us to be, we need to feed our bodies, our minds and our hearts. We need to help others grow too.

“ IF YOU CAN'T FEED A HUNDRED PEOPLE, THEN JUST FEED ONE.”

- MOTHER TERESA -

Questions

- **How do we feed our bodies – what is your favourite way? e.g. chicken**
- **How do we feed our minds – what is your favourite way? e.g. reading**
- **How do we feed our hearts – what is your favourite way? e.g. hugs, blessing each other**
- **How do we help others grow? e.g. encouraging, teaching**

Jesus knew that he would need shepherds to look after his followers. We're going to read about how Jesus gave Peter that special job.



SESSION NINE

READ

Share your snack while you listen to the reading.

After Jesus came back to life, he appeared to his disciples many times, and encouraged them about when he would return to heaven.

One day, early in the morning he found some of his disciples fishing in a boat out on the Sea of Galilee. But they had fished all night and caught nothing. Jesus was standing on the shore, but the disciples couldn't see who he was.

"Did you catch any fish?" he asked them.

"No," they said.

"Throw your net out on the right side of the boat, and you'll catch plenty of fish!" Jesus told them.

They did what he said, and soon the net was so full of fish that they couldn't drag it back into the boat!

John said, "It's the Lord." When Peter heard him say that, he jumped right into the water and began swimming to Jesus. The others followed and brought the net full of fish to the shore.

As soon as they came to land, they saw a fire burning. Fish were frying over it, and there was bread.

"Bring some of the fish you caught," said Jesus. So Peter went back for the fish. There were 153 big ones, but the net did not break!

"Come and have breakfast," Jesus called.

After they had eaten, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?

Yes, Lord, he answered, you know that I love you.

Jesus said to him, Take care of my lambs.

A second time Jesus said to him, Simon son of John, do you love me?

Yes, Lord, he answered, you know that I love you.

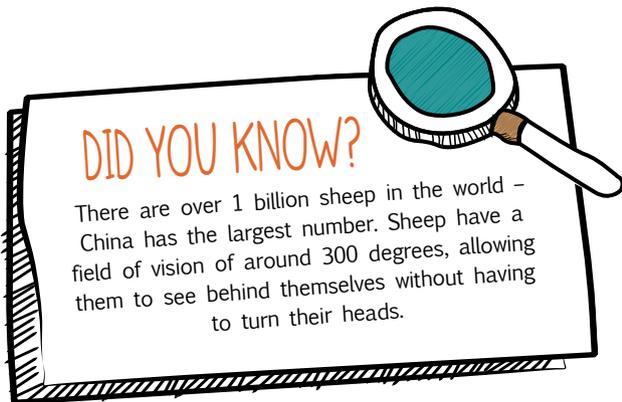
Jesus said to him, Take care of my sheep.

A third time Jesus said, Simon son of John, do you love me?

Peter became sad because Jesus asked him the third time, Do you love me? and so he said to him, Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you!

Jesus said to him, Take care of my sheep.))

John 20:19-23, Good News version, Classic Bible Storybook, Kenneth N. Taylor, Tyndale House



FAMILY TALK TIME

Remember how we talked about looking after someone's pet while they were away?

It was a bit like that for Jesus after he was resurrected. He knew he was going to be with God in heaven and wanted to make sure that his followers would be looked after. So he asked Peter, who he must have really trusted, to take care of them.

He called his followers his 'sheep' and asked Peter to feed them, and nourish them so they would grow healthy and strong.

Jesus wants us to get involved in helping look after each other too because we all belong to God's family.

Question

- **Why do you think Jesus asked Peter the same question three times?**

(To show that it was very important. Also, Peter had denied Jesus three times before he died so it was Jesus' way of saying that he was canceling out the wrong, and that now it was all OK).

- **Did you decide yours was a lamb or an older sheep?**

Jesus used three different words in Greek that really mean:

1st time = feed my lambs

2nd time = tend my sheep

3rd time = feed my sheep

PRAY

Dear Loving God, help us to feed and take good care of our pets. And, as your sheep, help us to 'feed' and take care of one another like Jesus asked Peter to do. Amen.

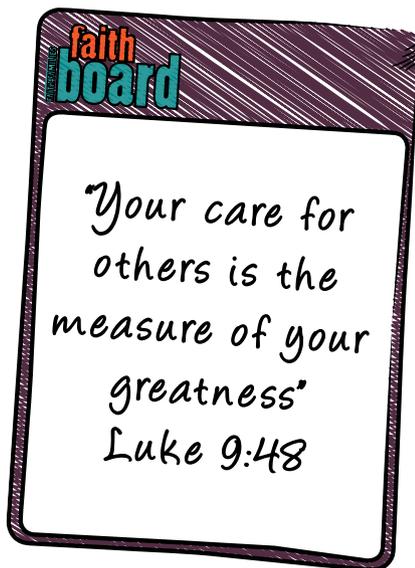
- Finish by giving each other a blessing (see below).

LIVE

Feeding bodies: Share a meal this week with another family or make a meal/do some baking for a family who may need care.

Feeding minds: Start reading a good book together as a family (e.g. The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe or another of the Narnia series by C S Lewis).

Feeding hearts: Give each other a blessing. (Trace the sign of the cross on each other's forehead or palm as a reminder that you belong to God and to one another.)



OTHER IDEAS

- Make a flock of sheep to care for from the paper sheep you used for the game. Cut out the sheep and paste onto a piece of folded card. Leave the card joined along some of the top edge and cut around (these sheep should stand up). Paste cotton wool balls onto them and use clothes pegs as legs. Put a small ribbon or string with label around the neck with each person's name on it. The children love having their own flock on the table!
- Make a special trip to your local Food Bank to deliver some food (you may be able to do this for your church).
- Feed your hearts and minds by watching a good movie together. Make sure it has a positive message and talk about it afterwards (e.g. Gifted Hands).

CHECK OUT WHAT YOU NEED FOR NEXT SESSION...



SESSION NINE

