

APRIL 26, 2015
FOURTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER

taking⁺ faith home

Jesus is our Good Shepherd.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

Sunday	John 10:11-18	The Good Shepherd
Monday	Genesis 48:8-19	God has been my shepherd
Tuesday	Isaiah 40:9-11, 28-31	God tends his flock
Wednesday	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 23-24	God will look after his sheep
Thursday	Mark 6:30-34	Jesus, the compassionate shepherd
Friday	Revelation 7:9-17	The Lamb will be their shepherd
Saturday	Psalms 95	We are the sheep of God's hand
Sunday	John 15:1-8	Christ, the vine

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. John 10:14-15 (NIV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Jesus our Good Shepherd, please forgive us for straying from you. Lead us back onto the path of true life. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, thank you for feeding us, protecting us and loving us. May we always listen to you and follow you. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's kindness and love be with you each day of your life, and may you live forever with the Lord. Amen. (Psalm 23:6)

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- In your life, who do you trust? Who do you listen to? Why?
- Jesus calls himself our “good shepherd.” What does a shepherd do? How can we know that Jesus is a *good* shepherd?
- How do we listen to Jesus' voice? How can we grow to know him better?

DEVOTIONS

In your home devotion time this week, play a game of “Follow the Leader.” Blindfold all the followers, and have the leader guide them using only his or her voice. Read John 10:11-18 and talk about what it means to listen to Jesus' voice and to follow him as sheep of the Good Shepherd.

SERVICE

1 John 3:17 says: “If we have all we need and see one of our own people in need, we must have pity on that person, or else we cannot say we love God.” Is there someone in your church family who is in particular need at this time? Offer your help and support to them and pray for them.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Read Psalm 23 as part of your household bedtime rituals this week. Parents, read it to and with your children as you settle them to bed. Make it your goal to memorize the Psalm with them.



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