

Katie



The Sunday  
School Lady



## JOHN 10

### THE GOOD SHEPHERD

**Scripture:** John 10:1-18

**Open:** Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

**Supplies:** Ping pong balls, straws, bowls

#### **Explain:**

Today we are going to talk about another I AM statement that Jesus makes in John. Can anyone remember what the other ones we've talked about are? (I am the bread of life, I AM)

**Read:** John 10:1-6

#### **Explain:**

Jesus is the gate to the sheep pen. That means that we can only come into the kingdom of God through him. Later on in John Jesus says, I am the way and the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father but through me.

There are a lot of people out there who believe that all roads lead to heaven. That being a "good person" gets them into heaven. But Jesus tells us that he is the only way to heaven. He is the gate we have to go through. How do we go through that gate? (By believing in his death and resurrection and following him).

Let's play a game where Jesus is the gate for the sheep.

#### **Play a Game:**

- Have 2 bowls full of ping pong balls, and 2 empty bowls on the opposite side of the room
- Divide the kids into two equal groups, give everyone a straw
- The kids will move their ping pong ball "sheep" from one side of the room to the other by the suction of their straws
- The first team to move all their sheep to the empty bowl wins.
- To make it easier, we found that either bending the straw or cutting the straw to be much smaller helped the kids. Also, put the second bowl on the floor and no more than 3 feet away.

**Explain:**

Jesus is our gate and he wants us to know his voice. Does anyone find that hard? How can we learn God's voice? (Pray, ask God to show us his voice, read our Bibles)

**Read:** John 10:7-18

**Explain:**

Jesus is also the good shepherd. Throughout the Bible, some very important people were shepherds for a time. Can anyone think of any shepherds? (Moses, David) Teachers of the law were also called shepherds because they cared for and led the people.

But Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He is the true shepherd, and he cares for his sheep. He lays his life down for the sheep. In this day, sheep pens didn't have doors. They are walled around but had an open gate. Shepherds would lay down across the door at night so the sheep wouldn't stray and no predators could get in. Jesus does even more than that! He doesn't just lay down, he lays his life down. Here, Jesus is telling the people that he will die for their sins and take his life up again with his resurrection. He is the good shepherd!

Jesus also says in this part that he has others who aren't of this sheep pen that he needed to bring in. Does anyone know what that means? (Gentiles, that's us!)

**Play a Game:**

Play a version of freeze tag. Have one person be the wolf (he's the "it"), have one be the Good Shepherd, all the rest are sheep.

The wolf tries to freeze the sheep by tagging them.

The "Good Shepherd" alone can unfreeze the sheep.

**Memorize:** John 10:14-15

Close in Prayer

