

Together @ Home

Lectionary Edition

Sunday 22nd November

Thirteenth Sunday of
Kingdomtide



Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.

Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the message of the sheep and the goats.

You can find it in your Bible in:
Matthew 25:31–46

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your group.

The other passages we might be thinking about at church this week are:

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalm 100

Psalm 95:1-7a

Ephesians 1:15-23

A prayer to say together

Dear God,
Thank you for the message of the sheep and the goats. Thank you that we are your sheep and you are our shepherd, that you guide, protect and provide for us.

Help us to be generous with what you have given us, seeking to help those in need and share what we have with others.

We pray for those in our local community who are hungry, sick homeless or in need. Show us how we can be a help to them.

Amen.

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

Why do you think Jesus described his followers as sheep and not goats?

Throughout the Bible Jesus describes himself as a good shepherd. A shepherd guides and protects his sheep, they follow him and he makes sure they have what they need. Goats can be very different, they are far more independent.

In Jesus' time most herds would have been a mixture of sheep and goats. At certain times the shepherd would have needed to separate out the sheep from the goats. Even though they might have looked similar the shepherd knows his own sheep and can separate them out easily.

In the same way Jesus knows each of us by name, we are special to Him. He sees what we do and knows when we serve and help others around us.

A question to answer as a family

What can we do as a family to help those in need in our community?

What is our church doing to help those in need in our community?

Reaching Out

The Pandemic has made it hard for us to connect with others as we might like to. Why not choose one of these challenges to take on as a family this week.

- Find out what supplies your local foodbank most needs and arrange to make a donation.
- Reach out to a neighbour or somebody in your church who is living alone.
- Have a family sleepover on the floor or a homemade shelter and pray for all those who are facing homelessness or living on the streets.



A verse to remember

Ezekiel 34 v 12

As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep.

Try to learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it. You might like to read the whole of Ezekiel 34 together and think about what makes a good shepherd. How can we take care of others in the world like Jesus looks after us?



Active Prayer

Jesus said that when we make time to help anybody in need we are helping Him. God's heart is for everybody in the world to have the food, clothes, shelter, medicine and love they need.

Call out each of these items and have a family race to see who can find one the fastest. When you have found them use them as inspirations to pray for these different areas

A spoon



Dear God, we thank you that you provide the food we need each day. We thank you for our local foodbanks who are helping to feed the hungry.

A coat



Dear God, we pray for all those who are homeless or living in shelters. We ask that you would protect them and provide what they need.

A cuddly toy



Dear God, we pray for all those who are lonely or feel isolated while we cannot meet freely. Help them to know your love and comfort.

Soap



Dear God, we pray for all who are sick and in hospital. We pray for their families too who may not be able to visit. We pray for all those working in our hospitals and trying to bring an end to the Coronavirus.

Family Activity 1

Hide and sheep

One person is the shepherd and must wear a blindfold. Everybody else in the room is a sheep. The sheep must move around the room making baa-ing noises and the shepherd should try to catch them!



If you have a big enough household you could divide those playing into sheep and goats, can the shepherd sort the sheep from the goats without being able to see them?

Family Activity 2

Name that sheep

One person closes their eyes, somebody else in the room must baa like a sheep.

Can the person with their eyes close recognise who made the noise?

BAA!



A colouring page you could print and colour together

Drawings provided by www.craftingthewordofgod.com

Ezekiel 34 v 12

As a shepherd looks after
his scattered flock when he
is with them, so will I look
after my sheep.

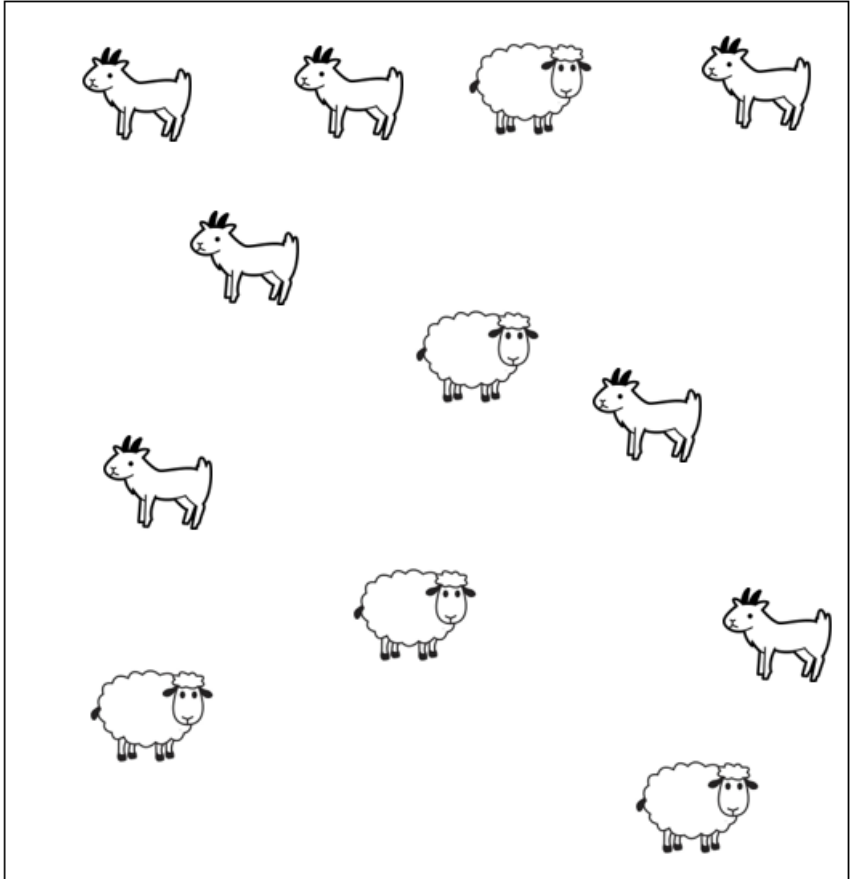


PUZZLE SHEET

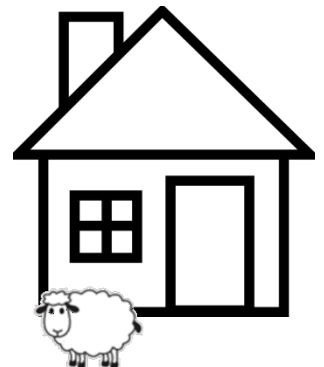
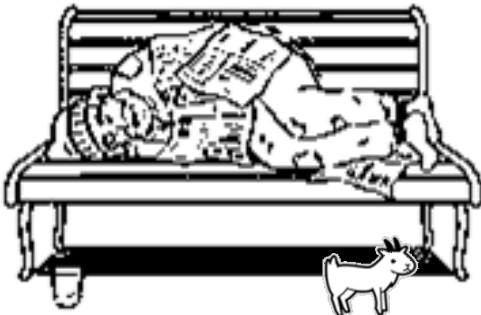
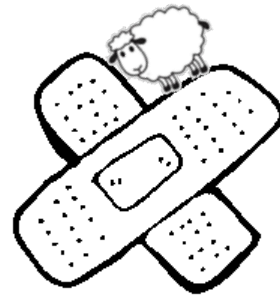
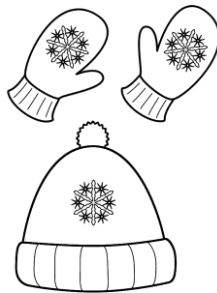
Can you draw 2 straight lines so that 2 sections contain only sheep and 2 contain only goats?

How many sheep can you find on the page?

How many goats can you find on the page?



Can you connect each person to the object that they need without the lines overlapping?



Why not take some time to colour each picture in and pray for all those in the world who needs these things today and all those who are helping those in need.