

1. A LAMB PUPPET - Capturing Attention

Make a paper bag lamb puppet by gluing a pink construction paper circle to the flap of a small lunch sack. Glue cotton balls over the surface to make it soft. Add black paper eyes and nose and pink paper ears.

Let the puppet help greet the children and parents at the door. “Hello, Tommy. I’m glad to see you today! Do you know what I am? I’m a soft woolly lamb. Do you want to feel how soft I am? (*Let Tommy pat the lamb*). We’re going to have a Bible Story all about ME today. Won’t that be fun?”

2. PLAY-DOUGH - Something To Do

Do Some Warm-up Exercises: Squeeze, pound, roll, pat, and punch the dough. Sing *The Play-Dough Song*, stressing the part that says, “I’d share some of it with you.”

Make Some Sheep and Lambs: Show the children how to roll small pieces of dough into balls. Push two together, side by side, to make sheep. Make lots of sheep, big and little. The big ones are the mothers. The little ones are lambs. Place a play-dough mat in the middle of the table to represent the sheepfold.

Tell Part of Today’s Story: Move the dough figures around on the table to illustrate the action. The sheep have been out all day eating green grass, drinking cool water, and resting in the shade of the tree. Night is coming. Time to go home.

(*Put a play-dough mat on the table to represent the sheepfold*). The shepherd calls his sheep and puts them into the sheepfold. As they go into the fold the shepherd counts them. 1-2-3-4-5-6. (*Count the number of sheep you made as you place them on the mat*). They are all here. They are safe for the night. The shepherd loves his sheep and takes good care of them.

3. A FEELIE BOX - Conversation Starter

Make A Feelie Box: Put some things in a box or basket which will be safe for the children to handle. Most of the items should be soft. For contrast, put in a “scratchy” hairbrush, a “hard” rock, a “smooth” piece of cloth, some “sticky” tape rolled into a ball with the sticky side out, and other items which will give your youngsters a chance to talk about how things feel.

Talk About It: Let the children explore the items in the box. Together think of descriptive words for the different way things feel.

Tell Part of Today’s Story: This soft cotton makes me think of a story in the Bible about a little lamb who was lost. Wouldn’t that be scary? Little Lamb was really afraid. And he was very, very sad. But this story has a happy ending. Because the good shepherd who takes care of the sheep and lambs looked and looked for him. And he found him. Then everybody was happy.

4. FELTBOARD FUN

Have ready some *lambs* which you have cut in each of the following colors: red, blue, yellow, green, orange, purple, and white. (*You will need two of each*). Also cut four 5" green squares to represent bushes. Scallop the edges. Tie a long piece of brown rug yarn into a circle.

Count The Lambs: Form the yarn into a circle on the feltboard. This will represent a “sheepfold.” The shepherd puts his sheep in the sheepfold every night and counts them as they go in. Begin putting the lambs into the sheepfold as you count. 1-2-3-4. How many lambs? Four. Do it again with a different number of lambs, letting the children help you count.

Where Can It Be? Scatter the bushes around the board. Put some lambs into the yarn circle (sheepfold). Count the lambs. Ask the children to hide their eyes. Turn the board toward you and hide one of the lambs behind a bush. Let the children count the lambs again. Oh, oh. One lamb is lost. Where can it be? Look under a bush. Is it here? No. Look under another bush. Is it here? No. Keep looking under bushes until the lamb is found. Here is the lamb! Everybody is happy. Give a big clap!

Tell Part Of The Story: One time a little lamb did not stay close to its mother. It got lost. How sad. The shepherd loved his lambs. So he looked and looked and looked. He looked here and there and everywhere. Then he found it! How happy everybody was. Little Lamb was not lost anymore.

5. BIBLE SURPRISE ACTIVITY

For this activity you will need pictures cut from magazines and other sources. Feature farm animals and pets. Include a lamb. Hide the pictures in the Bible. Hold it carefully on your lap as you repeat this rhyme.

Let's play a game with our Bible. Come play a game with me.
When we look inside the Bible, tell me what you see!

Tell Part Of The Story: *Find the lamb picture.* Who made lambs? God did! And the shepherd is the man who helps God take care of the sheep and lambs. Once upon a time a shepherd had some sheep. He took very good care of them. The mother sheep had baby lambs. They were so cute and soft and fluffy. The lambs jumped and ran and played while the mothers watched over them. And the shepherd watched over them all. One day, a baby lamb went too far away from its mother and got lost. All alone. By itself. Wouldn't it be scary to be lost? Little Lamb was afraid. Out all alone. All by itself. And its mother was very sad. Show me sad (*the children respond with sad faces*).

But remember, the good shepherd always takes care of his sheep and lambs. So he went looking for the little lost lamb. And when he found it and brought it back home, everybody was happy! Show me happy.

Find The Other Animal Pictures: This will give an opportunity to tell about how the farmer takes care of his animals and we take care of our pets. If children have pets at home, they may tell how their family takes care of them. God wants us to take care of our animals, just like the Good Shepherd takes care of his sheep.

Use the pictures to make a book as described in *Activity #6*.

6. MAKE-A-BOOK

Have ready some glue sticks and a blank book which you have made by folding several sheets of 9" x 18" construction paper together and tying in the middle with yarn. On the cover put a title, such as *Noisy Animals*.

Use the pictures from *Activity Card #5* to make a book about animals. Let the children help choose and glue the pictures into the book. Leave the pages facing the pictures blank. As you and the children talk about the pictures, print their comments on the blank pages. Be sure to include the sound the animal makes (*cats say meow*) and descriptive words telling how it moves (*bunnies hop*).

Plan to read this book to them often. The children's favorite books will be the ones they helped to make. They will enjoy hearing their own stories read back to them. And this helps them to begin to understand what reading and writing are all about.

Let's talk like the animals talk! After making the animal book, look at it together. As you come to each page, sing about the animal, borrowing the tune from *London Bridge Is Falling Down*.

Little Dog, what do you say? Do you say? Do you say?
Little Dog, what do you say? Bow-wow-wow!

If you are not sure what sound an animal makes, tell what it does.

Bunny Bun, what can you do? Can you do? Can you do?
Bunny Bun, what can you do? Hop! Hop! Hop!

7. THE PEEK-IN TUB GAME

Choose circles with animal pictures, including a *lamb*. Put them into small margarine tubs and snap on the lids.

Spread a small rug out on the floor in a quiet corner to define your game area and let the children know you are ready to play. When they come to see what you are doing, ask if they would like to peek inside. This should be invitation enough!

Question & Answer Game: As they take turns opening a tub and showing the picture, ask questions. “What animal is this?” A lamb. “Who made lambs?” God did! “What do lambs say?” *Ba-a-a-a*. Repeat with all the pictures.

If you don’t know the sound an animal makes, tell what it does. The elephant goes clump, clump, clump.

Where can it be? Turn three tubs over. Hide the lamb picture under one. Move the tubs around and let the children guess which one the animal is hiding under. Lift up each one. “Is it here? Is it here? Here it is!”

8. MILK CARTON BLOCKS

Interest the children in helping you lay the blocks on the floor in a big rectangular shape to represent a sheepfold. Leave an opening to use as a door.

Count The Lambs: Play that the children are little lambs and you are the shepherd. Say, “Where is Little Lamb Heather? Oh, there she is!” Lead Heather into the fold. “Now I have one.” Continue with the other children, one at a time. “Where is Little Lamb Jon?” Lead Jon into the fold. “Now I have two.” Do this with all the children who want to play.

Sing A Song: After putting the lambs in the pen, count them all and sing the Bible Story Song, *One Little Lamb*, using finger motions to illustrate it.

Note: Don’t be surprised if the youngest “lambs” don’t stay long. In fact, they may run off with a block or two. But the older twos and threes can get caught up in this kind of imaginative play and find out that playing “let’s pretend” together can be lots of fun.

9. PRETENDING

Play a game called, *The Shepherd Says*. This game is similar to “Simon Says,” but we will use the words, “The Shepherd says,” to bring out today’s Bible Story theme.

Use a simplified version with your twos and threes. In “Simon Says” the children are to do the action only if you use the words, “Simon Says.” This is a bit much for two year olds. So always preface your action with, “The Shepherd says.” Think of the action, say it, then all do it together.

The shepherd says jump up and down.
The shepherd says turn around.
The shepherd says reach up to the sky.
The shepherd says touch your toes.

Continue with any other actions you wish. When ready to settle down, prepare a resting place by spreading a quilt out on the floor. Use the following words.

The shepherd says come into the fold.
The shepherd says lie down and go to sleep.
The shepherd says “Sh-h-h.”

Say in a hushed voice. “Be very quiet.” As each child lies down, give him or her a stuffed toy to hold. “The sheep and lambs are all asleep. Sh-h-h. Don’t wake us up.”

10. OUR QUIET TIME WITH GOD

Sh-h-h. This is our Quiet Time With God. Help the children get ready to pray by showing the Noisy Animal book you made earlier (*see Activity #6*).

Tell a Little Story as You Go Along: One time I went to see the animals. They made funny noises. (Show each picture, letting the children help make the animal sounds). The pig said, “oink.” The lamb said, “ba-a-a.” The cow said, “moo.” (*Continue, using the pictures in your book*).

I guess they were all saying “good morning” in their own way. Animals are fun. I’m glad God made animals. Let’s tell Him thank-you right now.

Say A Prayer: Let the children take part by naming animals they like. “Jeremy wants to say thank-you for (*let Jeremy tell his animal*). And Beth wants to say thank-you for (*Beth tells her animal*). Continue until every child who wants to do so has had a chance to say part of the prayer. End the prayer by saying, “Thank-you, God, for all the animals. And all the children said....Amen.”

11. STORY TIME

Use The Story/Picture Card: Hide the card in the Bible. “Let’s find a good story in our Bible. Let’s find a story about (*take the card out and show the picture to the children*) . . . lambs!” Count the happy lambs. Point to the sad lamb. He is behind a bush. Why is he so sad? Let’s find out. Tell the story, *The Sad/Glad Lamb*.

Sing The Song: *One Little Lamb*. Do finger and hand motions which follow the words of the song.

Do A Story Activity: Bring out a basket full of pink paper lambs which you have cut. There should be enough for every child to have one with his or her name on it. (*See Handcraft Projects: A Peek-a-Boo Lamb, for the lamb pattern*).

Take the lambs, one at a time, out of the basket. Read the names and let each child take his or her lamb to the Handcraft Table where other teachers are waiting to help make Peek-A-Boo Lambs.

***Teacher Tip!** If the children are excited, grabbing, and crowding around as you are reading the names, restore order by stopping and saying cheerfully, “As soon as everyone is sitting down and ready, I can find some more lambs for you.” Then wait while the children settle down. Do this in a pleasant manner and praise those who are showing the behavior you want.*

Complimenting the children individually by name is one way to hurry the others up. “I like the way Amy is sitting. And Joey and Phillip and Heather are showing me they are ready.” Give out the lambs as you say each name. Encourage the others by saying, “Stay sitting down so I can find a lamb for *you!*”