

# Family Faith

## Chapter 16

# The Good Shepherd

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who leads us to Heaven.

### Chapter Summary

In the teaching of the good shepherd, Jesus tells his disciples, “I am the good shepherd” (John 10:11, 14). A good shepherd takes care of his flock. Jesus is the shepherd of our souls who will lead us to what is good and keep us safe so that we can lead happy lives. Even if we are lost or weak, Jesus will take care of us. The Good Shepherd will lead us away from the sadness of sin. Jesus gave up his life for his flock to lead us to the green pastures of our heavenly homeland.

### More for Parents

Parents are given one of the most important jobs in that they are the first shepherds of their children. Think of how many times (even in a day!) parents are guiding their children, keeping them from harm, and providing them food, shelter, and safety. Thankfully (since we struggle with our own imperfections), we are not their *only* shepherds. In fact, our mission as parents is to lead them to see Jesus as their true Shepherd and do whatever we can to help them follow *him*. We can foster this relationship by helping our children pray to Jesus, read about Jesus in the Bible, and follow his teachings. We want our children to *love* Jesus as a friend and Shepherd, and that is made possible by telling them how much we love him ourselves. What can we do to grow in our love for the Lord and share that with our children?

### Our Family Prays Together

Dear God, you are the Good Shepherd who loves us and takes care of us. Thank you for searching for us when we are lost. Help us always to follow you and love you. Amen.

### Let's Talk about It as a Family

- **Who is the Good Shepherd?** (*Jesus.*)
- **What do we call a story that teaches us something?** (*Parable.*)
- **What does the Good Shepherd do?** (*He loves, knows, protects, and searches for his sheep when they are lost.*)
- **Will Jesus ever leave us when we need him?** (*No.*)
- **Does Jesus know each of us by name?** (*Yes.*)

### Let's Live Our Faith

Jesus is our Good Shepherd, and he calls each of us by name and leads us to Heaven.

- Discuss with your family some things that your family can do to stay close to Jesus.
- Discuss how your family can be a good example to others in ways that will lead you to follow Jesus better.

### Family Faith Activities

Parents are shepherds to their children. Lead your family to Jesus by doing one or more of the following as a family:

- Stay after Mass with your family to say a short prayer of thanksgiving before leaving Mass.
- Recommit to showing your family's love for Jesus by going to Mass every Sunday.
- Pray the Rosary or one decade of the Rosary every day/week.
- Have holy images and statues in your home to remind your children of Jesus.
- Teach by example. Encourage your children to practice virtues such as patience and kindness.
- Read and discuss the Small Wonders story as a family at [www.wordofliferies.org/parents](http://www.wordofliferies.org/parents).

For more family faith formation resources go to [www.wordofliferies.org/parents](http://www.wordofliferies.org/parents).

# Small Wonders



Trifles the Kitten is missing, and  
Tell-Tale has trouble finding him.

Read the full Small Wonders story at [www.wordoflifefseries.org/parents](http://www.wordoflifefseries.org/parents).