

1



THE GOOD SHEPHERD & THE GATE

Jesus opened the way of Salvation

YEAR 2 – KINGDOM LIFE

UNIT 1: ENTERING THE KINGDOM

1 | Teacher's Notes

Scripture

John 10:1 - 15

Objectives

To explain that

- Today's story is about entering God's Kingdom.
- In the beginning God's creation was good and full of love and life, because God is love and life. God created people to know and love him as their king and to take care of the world he had made.
- But sin and death entered the world when Adam and Eve rejected God as king. Sin is thoughts, words and actions that disobey God's good will.
- Sin leads to death. That means that sin separates us from God and his Kingdom. The Kingdom of God is where God is king and his good and loving will is done. God's Kingdom is full of love and life.
- Jesus is the Gate into God's Kingdom. God loved us so much that he sent Jesus to open the way of salvation into God's Kingdom through his death on the cross and the resurrection. There is no other way into his Kingdom.
- Jesus is our Good Shepherd. He wants us to follow him, to trust and obey him, so he can give us life now and forever that is filled with joy, hope and peace!

Memory Verse

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6 – NIV)

ACNA
Catechism
Connections

Today's story of the Good Shepherd and the Gate is connected to the following Catechism questions:

Q 45 Was the world that God created good? Yes. God created all things and called them "very good". However, through sin, evil and death have come into the world and corrupted it.

Q 1 What is the human condition? Though created good and made for fellowship with our Creator, humanity has been cut off from God by self-centered rebellion against him, leading to lawless living, guilt, shame, death, and the fear of judgment. This is the state of sin.

Q 105 What are sins? Sins are intentions, acts, or failures to act that arise out of my corrupted human nature and fall short of conformity to God's revealed will.

Q 2 What is the Gospel? The Gospel is the good news that God loves the world and offers salvation from sin through his Son, Jesus Christ.

Q 9 Is there any other way of salvation? No. The apostle Peter said of Jesus, "There is salvation in no one else". Jesus is the only one who can save me and reconcile me to God.

Q 64 What did Jesus accomplish on the Cross? Jesus fulfilled the Scriptures by dying on the Cross as a sacrifice for sin in obedience to his Father. He thereby showed the depth of the love of God for his fallen creation, satisfying the justice of God on our behalf and breaking the power of sin, Satan, and death.

Q 65 What does Jesus' death mean for you? Jesus bore my sins and died the death that I deserve, so that I could be saved from sin and eternal condemnation and reconciled to God.

Q 8 Who is Jesus Christ? Jesus is the eternal Son of God, the Savior of the world. Fully divine, he took on our human nature, died on the Cross for our sins, rose from the dead, ascended into heaven, and now rules as Lord and King over all creation.

**Suggested
Materials,
Props, and
Costumes****Big story props:**

- Crown - or picture of a crown (from Year 1)
- Large Bible
- Kingdom Life storyboard (see props document for instructions on how to make this.)

(The crown will only be used for this lesson. The Bible and the storyboard will be used for every lesson.)

Lesson Props: (see Props Document for instructions on how to make these)

- Storyboard unit title: "Entering the Kingdom"
- Storyboard symbols: Crown, God symbol, cross gate, and the following word cards: "GOD'S KINGDOM", "LIFE", "LOVE", "SIN", "DEATH"
- Good Shepherd poster (found in props document)
- Jesus (Good Shepherd) peg doll with shepherd's crook
- A jumbo cotton ball with sheep face for each child + 2 extras to use as props for story.
- Cue cards are encouraged if a child reads the part

Costumes: Teacher assistant or older child dressed as Jesus with blue sash across his shoulder.

Posters: Year 1 Kingdom Story: Lesson #1 - Creation, Lesson #2 - The Fall

Memory Verse: I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6 – NIV)

(Found on the last page of this lesson plan) Print out and place in large Bible.

2 | Lesson Outline:

Welcome	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name.
Greeting & Collect for Purity	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity (<i>see Resource Section</i>)
Prayer of Confession	Say the Prayer of Confession (<i>see Resource Section</i>) Extinguish the candles
Music	Jesus loves me this I know Jesus you died upon a cross (Salvation Poem – Superbook) I just wanna be a sheep (chorus and last verse only) <i>Please check internet for lyrics and music.</i>
Review of foundations	Choose from the following as appropriate: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments or The Greatest Commandment. <i>For more information on how to teach these, see Resource Section</i>
Reading	Memory verse (Printed out and placed in large Bible – invite older child to read)
Story Board Review	Ask review questions relating to props from previous lessons on story board. <i>Story board review is found in Section 4</i>
Props/Costumes	Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.) Big story props: Kingdom Crown, Large Bible, Kingdom Life storyboard
Bible Story	<i>Proceed with story and questions found in Section 4.</i>
Related activities	<i>After the story, proceed with related activities found in Section 5.</i>
Preparation for Communion & leaving class	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. <i>See Resource Section.</i>

3 | Storyboard Progression



The Good Shepherd leads the sheep through the cross gate (seen from children's perspective).



Leave the storyboard like this for next week

4 | Story and Questions

SETUP: *Have the children sit on the floor in a semi-circle around the Kingdom Life storyboard. You will begin with an empty storyboard with only the grey and green felt in place. Refer to storyboard photos above for placement of symbols. Ensure that all children can see the props and symbols as you point to them frequently throughout the story. Ask an assistant or older child to play the part of Jesus.*

CROWN: *Hold up crown and say to the children: This year we are going to talk about Life in God's Kingdom as we follow Jesus our Forever King.*

BIBLE: *Hold up the Bible and say: 'The Big Story of Life in God's Kingdom is found in the Bible. The Bible is God's true Word.'*

STORY:

TEACHER: *(Hold up Creation poster from Year 1, Lesson 1)* The Bible tells us that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. God's creation was **good** and full of love and life, because **God** is love and life! God created people, Adam and Eve, to know and love him as their King and to take care of the world he had made.

(Hold up The Fall poster from Year 1, Lesson 2) But sadly, Adam and Eve disobeyed God and decided to be rulers of their own lives. They had to leave the Garden of Eden and their relationship with God was broken. Sin and death entered the world.

What is sin? It is thoughts, words and actions that disobey God's good will. Sin leads to death. That means that sin separates us from God.

(Point to storyboard) In our story today, this board represents the whole world. This green area represents God's Kingdom, where God is King and his good and loving will is done. *(Place down "God's Kingdom" and crown symbols as shown in photo)* God's Kingdom is full of love and life, so let's put the words LOVE and LIFE in here too. *(Place word cards below crown)*

The reason God's Kingdom is full of love and life, is because God **himself is** love and life. *(Place "God" symbol down as shown)* God is at the **centre** of his kingdom. He is the King! Knowing God as our King, puts things in their right place! We were made to have God for King.

This grey area represents life **without** God where people are ruled by **sin**. Here

people put **themselves** at the centre instead of God. They are cut off from God's life. Sin leads to eternal **death**, which means it separates us from God forever.

(Place word SIN and DEATH cards down)

This looks like two different countries! They are separated. *(Point to green and grey areas)* Because people are sinful, we cannot enter into God's Kingdom by ourselves.

Do you wonder how people can get out of the life of sin and death and enter into God's wonderful Kingdom? In today's story, Jesus tells us that **he** made the way for us to enter God's Kingdom.

Let's put these words saying "Entering the Kingdom" on our storyboard. *(Put down as shown the unit title "Entering the Kingdom")*

Let's find out what Jesus did and taught.

TEACHER: *(Hold up Good Shepherd poster)* One day Jesus told a story about a good shepherd, his flock of sheep and a sheep pen. A sheep pen is a fenced-in area with walls and a gate where the shepherd keeps his flock safe. Only robbers would climb over the fence. The shepherd goes into the pen through the gate.

(Point to green felt on storyboard) In this story the sheep pen is a picture of God's good Kingdom. *(Place Jesus peg doll (with shepherd's crook) and 2 cotton ball sheep on green area)* The shepherd is Jesus and the sheep that he is talking about are actually his followers, like you and me. Let's listen to what Jesus says:

JESUS: "If someone does not enter the sheep pen through the gate, but climbs in another way, that person is a thief...**I am like a gate** for the sheep. Anyone who enters through me will be saved and have **life**."

TEACHER: Jesus is saying that **He** is the way into God's Kingdom. *(Hold the cross gate)* At the cross, Jesus gave his life for us. He died in our place, took the penalty for our sin, and then rose from the dead so that he could save us from sin and death. That is called SALVATION. We have the word SALVATION written above the cross. *(Point to the word "salvation" on the cross and place cross on storyboard as shown)*

God loved us so much that he sent his Son Jesus to rescue us, and because of that, we can enter his Kingdom and have new life! Jesus opened the gate for us, the way into God's Kingdom where there is life full of joy, hope and peace.

TEACHER: Is there any other way into God's Kingdom? No, there is not. Let's hear what Jesus said in our memory verse? *(Hold up verse.)*

JESUS: "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

TEACHER: Jesus is the way. He is the **only** way into God's Kingdom. Jesus is the gate because he gave his life for us, and he is also the **Good Shepherd** who leads the sheep through the gate into his Kingdom. *(Move Jesus peg doll and 1 sheep onto grey area in front of cross and walk them through the cross gate, the sheep following Jesus.)*

TEACHER: I'm going to give each of you a little sheep to hold. *(Give each child a cotton ball sheep with their name on it to hold.)*

TEACHER: The sheep that you are holding represents you. If you want to, you can now walk your own sheep **through** the cross and into God's Kingdom, following Jesus.

ACTION: *Let the children who want to, walk their sheep through the cross and leave their sheep with Jesus on the green area.*

TEACHER: Jesus loves us so much! He wants us to follow him, to trust and obey him, so he can give us **life** now and forever that is filled with joy, hope and peace!

Life Application Prayer:

TEACHER: Thank you, Lord Jesus, that you opened a way for us to enter your wonderful Kingdom. Thank you that you died on the cross for our sin, and you rose from the dead to give us new life. Thank you that you want to give us life that is filled with joy, hope and peace. Lord Jesus, help us to follow you, our Good Shepherd, and our Forever King. Amen.

(After the lesson give each child their cotton ball sheep to take home.)

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

- **What does this story tell us about God?** (He loves us and wants us to have **his** life filled with joy, hope and peace, Jesus is our shepherd...He leads and guides us.)
- **What is God's Kingdom?** (Where God is king and his good and loving will is done. God's Kingdom is full of love and life.)
- **What separates us from God and his life and keeps us outside his Kingdom?** (Sin, which leads to death.)
- **What is sin?** (Thoughts, words, and actions that disobey God's good will and separate us from him and the love and life he created us to have.)
- **What does sin lead to?** (Sin leads to death. That means separation from God forever.)
- **Who is the gate into God's Kingdom?** (Jesus)
- **How did Jesus open the way into God's Kingdom for us?** (Through dying for our sin on the cross and bringing us new life through his resurrection.)
- **Is there any other way into God's Kingdom?** (No)
- **What is salvation?** (Salvation means that Jesus died in our place and then rose from the dead so he could rescue us from sin and death and open a gate for us to enter into his Kingdom and have **life**.)
- **Who is our Good Shepherd?** (Jesus)
- **What does the Good Shepherd call us to do?** (To follow him, to trust and obey him, so he can give us his life, both now and forever.)

5 | Response Activities

Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement

- Have the children complete the activities in the Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement.

Optional activities

- Different learning stations, such as: a book table, modelling clay, colouring papers
- Discovery table with relevant books and pictures for the children to explore.
- Give each child one of the cotton ball sheep to take home.

"I am the way, the
truth and the life.
No one comes to the
Father except
through me."

(John 14:6)