



GOD'S KINGDOM

LOVE

LIFE

SALVATION



ENTERING THE KINGDOM

SIN

DEATH



Lesson 1: *The Good Shepherd + the Gate* (Condensed Version)

JESUS OPENED THE WAY OF SALVATION (Scripture: John 10:1-15)

Objectives: To explain that: * 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 separates us from God and his Kingdom and leads to death. *Jesus is the Gate. He opened the way of salvation into God's Kingdom through his death on the cross and the resurrection. *Jesus is our Good Shepherd. He wants us to follow him, to trust and obey him, so he can give us life that is filled with joy, hope and peace!

"I Wonder" Questions: What do you see in this picture? (*Point to picture of shepherd*) This picture shows us that Jesus is our Good Shepherd. *I wonder why he is sitting at the entrance of the sheepfold. *I wonder why there is a green section. * I wonder why there is a grey section. * I wonder why there is a crown. Let's find out more in our story....

Lesson Props: Year 1 – Lesson 1, Creation poster; Several cotton balls representing sheep. Optional large version of story picture on pg. 3

Lesson Summary: (*Show Year 1, Lesson 1 – Creation Poster*). The Bible says 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 to know and love him as their king and to take care of the world he had made (*Put away Creation poster*). This year we are going to talk about Life in God's Kingdom as we follow Jesus our Forever King. Today, we will talk about **Entering the Kingdom**. The green area on this poster represents **GOD'S KINGDOM**, where God is King and his good and loving will is done. In God's kingdom there is **LOVE** and **LIFE**. The grey section represents life without God where people are ruled by **SIN**. Sin entered the world when Adam and Eve rejected God as King and decided to be rulers of their own lives. Sin is thoughts, words and actions that disobey God's good will. Sin separates us from God and his Kingdom and leads to eternal **DEATH**. Because we are sinful, we cannot enter into God's Kingdom by ourselves. But the good news is that God loved us so much that he sent his Son Jesus to rescue us! Jesus took the penalty for our sin when died on the **CROSS**, and he conquered death when he rose from the grave. Through his death and resurrection, he opened the gate for us to go into God's Kingdom and have **new life** (*point to the green section*). Jesus is the **gate**. There is no other way into God's Kingdom. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus rescued us from sin and death. This is called **SALVATION**. Jesus has saved us! Jesus called himself the **Good Shepherd** (*point to picture of shepherd*). He also compared the Kingdom of God to a sheep pen - a fenced-in area where the shepherd leads his sheep and keeps them safe. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, wants to lead us, his sheep, through the gate into his Kingdom (*show cotton ball sheep moving from the grey section through the cross/gate into green section*). Jesus loves us so much! He wants us to follow him, to trust and obey him, so he can give us life, both now and forever. Life that is filled with joy, hope and peace! **Prayer:** *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. (ACTION: For the younger children, give each child a cotton ball and let them walk the cotton ball from the grey section, through the cross into God's Kingdom, green section, where there is love and life).*

Suggested Questions: **What does this story tell us about God?** (He loves us and wants us to have **his** life that is filled with joy, hope and peace.) *What is God's Kingdom? (Where God is king and his good and loving will is done) *What separates us from God and keeps us outside his kingdom? (Sin which is thoughts, words and actions that disobey God's good will) *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, Jesus is the only way) *Who is our Good Shepherd? (Jesus)

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



Back of page 3

Year 2 - Lesson 1 – The Good Shepherd and the Gate