

Featured Story

Jesus Is the Good Shepherd
(John 10:1–18)

Lesson Goals

- to recognize Jesus loves and cares for us as a good shepherd cares for his sheep
- to recall Jesus seeks us out when we stray and we can return through the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- to explain we express our sorrow for having sinned in the Act of Contrition

Materials Needed

- The Catholic Children's Bible
- Chapter 6 activity booklet
- Treasure map
- Stickers
- Journey book
- Coloring and writing tools
- Green paper
- Glue
- Scissor
- A lamb - a picture, stuffed animal, or puppet
- White balloons, blown up and decorated with a sheep's ears, eyes, nose, and mouth, with a marker
- Ruler or stick
- A picture of Jesus, The Good Shepherd (attached)
- Sheep clipart (attached)

Jesus Loves and Cares for Us

Background Focus (for parents)

In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we are not simply confessing our sins to the priest. We are confessing them to God. The priest is God's representative who has the power, in God's name, to forgive our sins. In every sacrament, the priest acts in the name of Jesus. Getting to know Jesus as the Good Shepherd helps us to understand that the priest, who acts in the name of Christ, will welcome all of us with love and care.

Remember we have many shepherds in our lives. Parents and teachers are shepherds. Police and firefighters are shepherds who risk their lives each day to care for the community. Children themselves are shepherds when they look out for younger children or animals. All people who love and care for others are signs of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who loves and cares for all.

Go (10 minutes)

Opening Prayer

 **Child:** Turn to page 1 in the Chapter 6 activity booklet and locate the prayer on the page.

Together: Begin prayer with the Sign of the Cross.

- (Allow about 10 seconds of silence.)
- Read the prayer aloud.
- End with an “Amen” and the Sign of the Cross.

Engage Activity

Materials Needed:

“Lamb puppet”

Parent: Begin the lesson with a “puppet” of a lamb. (A stuffed animal, picture on a stick or an actual puppet.)

- Standing in front of your child, walk the lamb along the front of the desk or table as you say, in the voice of the lamb: “Baaa! Baaa!”
- The lamb is lost, continue with these or similar words:
 - “This lamb should be with his flock, but here he is, wandering around this room.”
 - “This lamb needs someone to find him! This lamb needs a shepherd!”

 **Child:** Be the shepherd to the lost lamb.

- What should the shepherd say to this poor little lost lamb?
(A suggestion: “Poor lamb. Come with me. I will take you home,” etc.)

Parent: Continue with the following words:

- Yes, that is exactly what a good shepherd would say to a lost lamb!

- This is what Jesus, our Good Shepherd, says to us. He says: "I am here to find you again. I will bring you home."
- When we receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we are coming home again to the flock of the Good Shepherd, Jesus.

Seek **(30 minutes)**

Featured Story

- ✚ **Child:** Find John 10:1–18 in The Catholic Children's Bible. (pages 1675 and 1678)
- ✚ Turn the page to the Featured Story on page 1676 and place an "I found it!" sticker on the page.

(The words between the leaves are a shortened version of the Scripture story on the previous page.)

- ✚ Look at the pictures. Can you guess what the Bible story might be about?
- ✚ Read the title of the story.
- ✚ Look at the vocabulary words at the bottom of the page. Read each word, and the definition.

Parent: Introduce the Bible story by explaining that where Jesus lived, there were a lot of sheep and a lot of shepherds.

- People saw shepherds all the time. They knew it was hard work being a shepherd and taking care of sheep all day and all night too.
- Today we might compare being a shepherd to a rancher taking care of cattle or even to those of us who take care of a pet.
- Many animals are totally dependent on us for their food, their water, and their well-being. We can't let them down. In this story, Jesus tells us that he will never let us down.
- Read the Bible story on page 1676.

- Ask several questions to check for comprehension, such as these:
 - Who is the Good Shepherd?
(Jesus)
 - What does the Good Shepherd do?
(He takes care of the sheep and is willing to die for them.)
 - There is a wolf in this story. What could the wolf do to the sheep?
(He might snatch the sheep and scatter them.)
 - If we are the sheep of Jesus, what do you think the wolf is?
(The wolf is anyone who wants to harm us or to lead us on the wrong path.)

 **Child:** Turn to page 2 in the activity booklet and complete the maze by drawing a line from the shepherd to the lost sheep.

Understand It!

 **Child:** Read Understand It! on page 1677.

Parent: Ask your child to summarize what they just read and review these key points with them:

- Sheep need to be cared for.
- A good shepherd loves his sheep and knows each one.
- A good shepherd risks his life to save his sheep.
- Jesus called himself “The Good Shepherd.”
- Jesus knows us, loves us, and died for us. He is a shepherd worth following forever!

Live It!

 **Child:** Read Live It! on page 1677

Together: Pray the verses of Psalm 23 1-3.

Tell It!

- ✚ **Child:** Look at the images in Tell It! on page 1677.
 - ✚ Use the pictures in Tell it! to retell the story in your own words.
 - ✚ Use some of the smaller stickers to mark parts of the Featured Story pages that capture your interest.
- (Remember to save enough stickers to use on the remaining Chapters.)

Core Learning Activity

Leading the Sheep

Materials Needed:

- 1 white balloon-already blown up
- With a black marker, draw sheep's ears, eyes, nose, and mouth on the balloons
- A ruler or stick

Parent: Set up area to designate the "sheep pen," use chairs or any other items to make a barrier.

- This game is a reminder: Jesus, The Good Shepherd, leads us and guides us.
- Place your child at the opposite end of the room from the "sheep pen" and give the following instructions:
 - Your child will be the shepherd. Have them hang on to their sheep by the little knot at one end.
 - Give your child an item resembling a shepherd's crook, (a ruler or a stick).
 - When you say, "Go!" have your child drop their balloon sheep and use the "shepherd crook" (the ruler or stick) to gently guide the sheep into the sheep pen on the other side of the room.
 - Hands may not be used!
 - **Get ready! Get set! Go!**
 - The activity is over when the sheep has been led and contained in the sheep pen.

Process the Activity

 **Child:** Share what you learned about your balloon sheep.
(They are not easy to lead and guide with gentleness. Sometimes they go anywhere but where they should go!)

Parent: Remind your child: Jesus leads and guides us with gentleness, even when we want to go every which way.

- Invite the children to share their experiences of being a shepherd in the activity.
 - Explain that being a shepherd is not an easy job.
 - Jesus never gives up on us.
 - He wants us to stay with him and follow him, because he is the Good Shepherd.

Additional Activity Option

Materials Needed

A large piece of green paper or
Green crayon, marker or paint...
A picture of Jesus the Good Shepherd (attached or of your choosing)
Sheep clipart (attached or of your choosing)
Scissor
Glue

A Picture of The Good Shepherd (15 minutes)

Parent: Explain: Jesus is the Good Shepherd, and each one of us is a sheep. The entire Church, including the Pope and bishops, is the flock of Christ.

 **Child:** In your Journey Book, glue green paper or color the whole page green. This is the pasture.

Parent: Write “We Are the Sheep of His Pasture” at the top of the green page. Give the sheep to your child.

 **Child:** Write your name on the first sheep and glue it to the pasture.

Parent: As you your child glues his named sheep, say:

“ _____, the Lord Jesus is your shepherd.
May you follow him all of your days.”

- Then put your right hand on the child's head and make the sign of the cross on the forehead with your thumb.
- ✚ **Child:** On as many sheep as you want, put the names of people you know. Also include people whose name you don't know but who are in your neighborhood like policeman, fireman, teacher, priest, person who works at a store, neighbors, bus driver; people you see around the town.
- ✚ Glue all the sheep to the pasture.

Find (30 minutes)

God's Treasure of Forgiveness

- ✚ **Child:** Do you remember the different steps of the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

Parent: Review the steps of Reconciliation learned to this far.

- 1. Take time to examine your **conscience** (the knowledge of right and wrong we have within us). Ask the Holy Spirit to help you remember what you have done or not done to follow God's Law. Think about the words of Jesus ("Love one another"), the Ten Commandments, and the Golden Rule.
 - 2. The priest welcomes you. You make the Sign of the Cross together.
 - 3. The priest may read the Bible, the Word of God.
 - 4. You confess your **sins** (things we say, do, or think that does not follow God's Law) to the priest.
- Continue with these or similar words:

- After you confess your sins, the priest may give you some words of advice or encouragement. He will then give you a **penance**.
 - A **penance** is a prayer or good action that shows that you will do better.
 - Doing a penance shows, in a small way, that we want to make up for what we have done.
 - Sometimes a penance is a prayer to pray. Sometimes it is an action to do. Sometimes it is a kind act to help someone that you have hurt in some way. It is important to do our penance as soon as possible.
- The priest will then invite you to pray an **Act of Contrition**.
 - The Act of Contrition is a prayer that tells God that you are sorry and will not sin again.
- The word contrition means “true sorrow for sin and a desire to avoid sin in the future.”
 - The Act of Contrition in the Sacrament of Reconciliation tells God you are sorry for your sins.
 - In the sacrament, you can say The Act of Contrition by heart or you can read it from a card.
 - You should practice ahead of time, so you know what you are saying to God and can say it with your whole heart.

 **Child:** Turn to page 3 in the activity booklet and complete the activity.

(Answers: 1. Contrition, 2. sin, 3. encouragement, 4. penance, 5. Possible)

Parent Note: This content is presented in a child-friendly way in the God’s Treasure of Forgiveness Student Booklet. You may wish to have your child read all or parts of chapter 6 to supplement the lesson. Or use the concluding points under “Things to Remember” to wrap up the lesson before prayer.

Lesson Wrap-Up

Parent: Invite your child to think back over all of the different things discussed in this lesson and have your child share some of the key things they learned.

- Ensure the following points are made:
 - Jesus loves and cares for us as a good shepherd cares for his sheep.
 - Jesus seeks us out when we stray and we can return through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
 - We express our sorrow for having sinned in The Act of Contrition.

✚ **Child:** Place the chapter 6 sticker in the correct circle on your treasure map.

Closing Prayer

Together: Begin with the Sign of the Cross. (Allow about 10 seconds of silence.)

- Pray The Act of Contrition.

*My God,
I am sorry for my sins with my whole heart.
In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good,
I have sinned against you
whom I should love above all things.
I firmly intend with your help,
to do penance,
to sin no more
and avoid whatever
leads me to sin.
Amen*

- Close with a final Sign of the Cross.

✚ **Child:** Make at least two copies of The Act of Contrition. (handwritten, retyped or printed)

✚ Decorate them any way you like.

✚ Or you may use the copy at the end of this lesson.

✚ Print the cross on colored paper.

✚ Cut out the cross on the inside of the outline.

✚ Print The Act of Contrition on a different color of paper (or white)

✚ Glue the cross cutout over the words of The Act of Contrition. Make sure you can read all the words of the prayer.

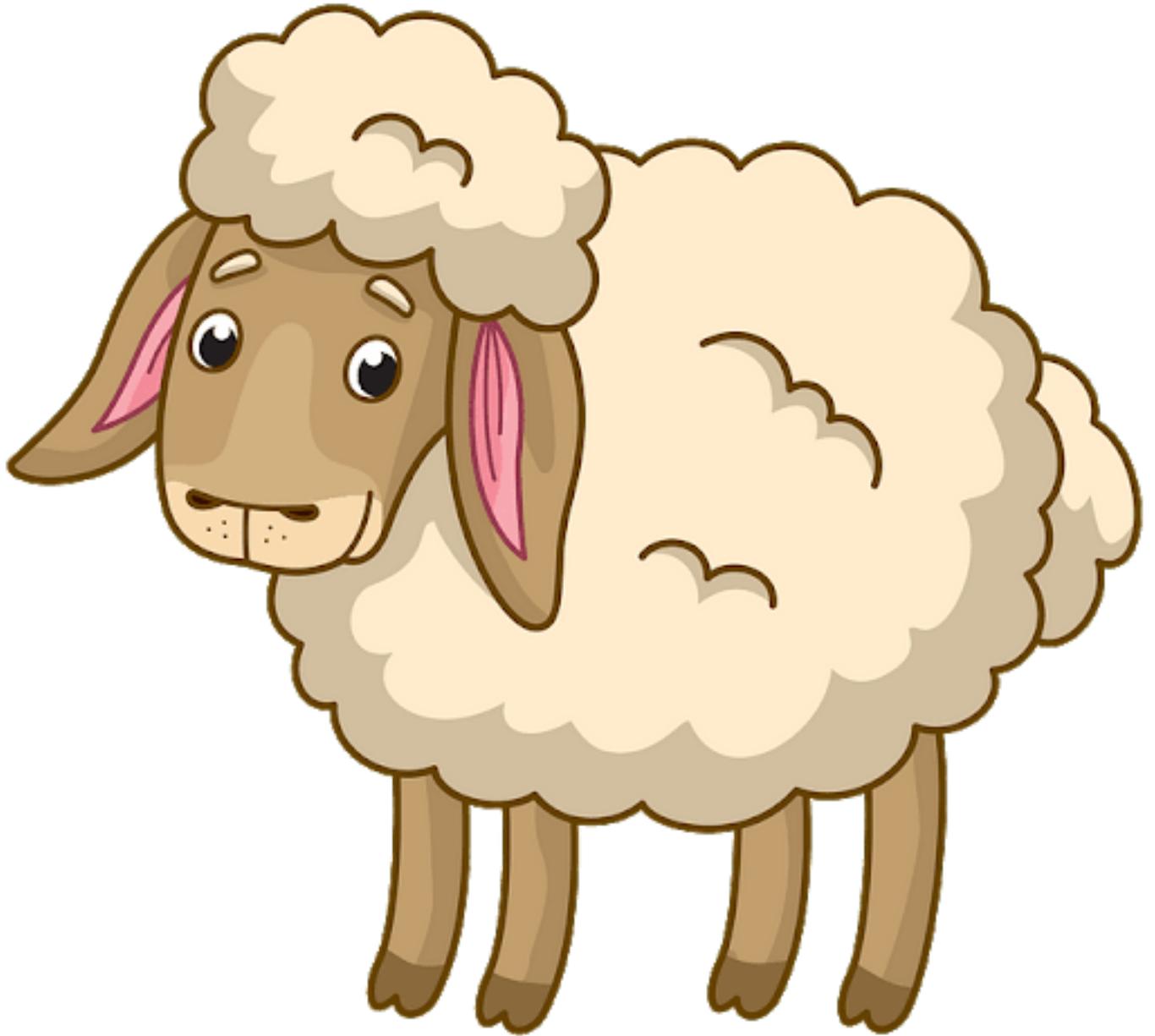
- ✚ Decorate the prayer card.
- ✚ Place one copy of your decorated prayer where you will see it often and pray it. Can you memorize it?
- ✚ Glue one copy of your decorated prayer in your Journey Book as a keepsake.

Parent: Before gluing the activity booklet into the Journey Book, make sure to read over the Family Page.

Please make sure you keep all your Reconciliation Journey Memories in your “Journey Book”.

(The reconciliation activity book, the activities done for each lesson and any other memories you wish to include.)

Sheep Puppet. Glue on a stick..

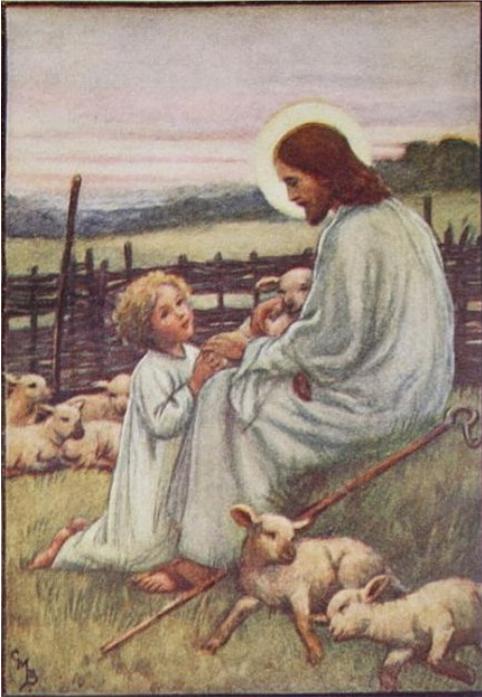


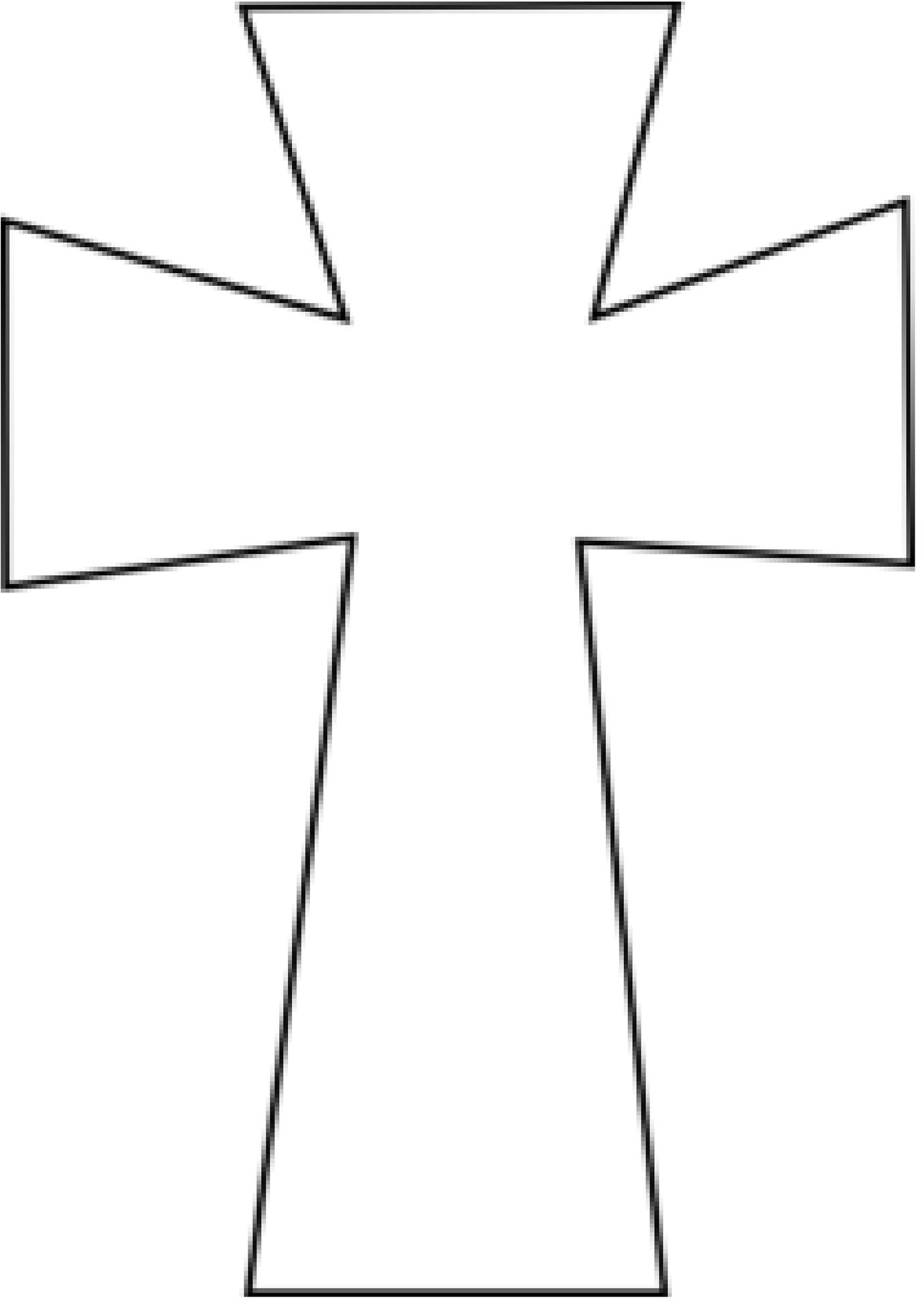


Sheep for Jesus the Good Shepherd Pasture.

These are examples that you may use. Feel free to look for other sheep clip art online. You may also draw your own or cut sheep from a magazine. It is your unique pasture.

Pick a picture to use for Jesus the Good Shepherd, or you may find another you like better.





The Act of Contrition

**My God,
I am sorry for my sins with my
whole heart.**

**In choosing to do wrong and failing
to do good, I have sinned against you
whom I should
love above
all things.**

**I firmly intend
with your help,
to do penance,
to sin no more
and avoid whatever
leads me to sin.**

Amen