



# Lesson 2: “God’s Heart is Good and Loving”

## 3-5 In-Person Crew Club Plan

<b><u>Key Teaching Point</u></b>	God is good, and I’m his good creation.
<b><u>Key Bible Verse</u></b>	“See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!” 1 John 3:1 (NLT)
<b><u>Scripture Passage</u></b>	“The Good Shepherd cares for his sheep” (Luke 15:1-7, Psalm 23, John 10:11-14)
<b><u>Materials</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A Bible</li> <li>● A squishy ball*</li> <li>● A cotton ball</li> <li>● Handout 1, one per student</li> <li>● Image 1, one copy</li> <li>● Pens or pencils*</li> <li>● Index cards, one per student*</li> <li>● (Optional) costume and props for the skit             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A robe</li> <li>● A broomstick or yardstick</li> <li>● 2 chairs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

\*Materials marked by an asterisk are in the CKC Games Bag.

### **Relate (20 minutes)**

Welcome crew members with a snack.

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while children eat their snack:

Icebreaker Options (Choose one.):



- Ask children to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
- Ask the children to take turns sharing how they're feeling today using the "How Are You Feeling?" chart (from the CKC Games Bag).
- Open a discussion with the question, "What is something you wonder about God?"

## Build Relationships.

### The Question Game

Using a squishy ball, play this get-to-know-you game with your crew members.

Gather all crew members into a circle. Give the ball to one student to start the game. The student with the ball will ask a get-to-know-you question and throw the ball to another member in the circle who will respond to that question. Then, the student who has the ball should ask a new question and throw the ball to someone else to answer. You may want to offer one of the following example questions if a student cannot think of a question to ask.

Examples:

- What is your favorite color?
- What is your favorite animal?
- What grade are you in?
- What sports do you play?
- What is your favorite food?
- What season do you like the best?

### Play a game.

Shepherd Tag (This game works best with 6 or more crew members and an open space.) Choose one student to be the shepherd and stand in the middle of an open playing area. The rest of the students should line up on opposite sides of the playing area behind a designated boundary (about half the students on each side). When the shepherd calls the sheep by shouting "Come sheep!" all the students on both sides must run to the opposite side. Any players who are tagged by the shepherd become part of the herd and will help the shepherd tag players in the next round. The last student to remain is the winner.

### Find the Lost Sheep

For this game, you will need a cotton ball to represent the lost sheep. Gather your crew members into a circle. Select one student to be the shepherd and tell the shepherd to sit down in the middle of the circle. Instruct the students who are not the shepherd to place their hands behind their back. Tell the shepherd to close their eyes, and walk around the circle, placing the cotton ball into the hands of one of the students in the circle. After the



cotton ball is placed, tell the shepherd to open their eyes and guess who has the lost sheep. As the shepherd is looking for their lost sheep, the students who are not holding the lost sheep should make the sounds of sheep, while the student holding the sheep should be silent. Once the shepherd finds who has the lost sheep, choose another student to be the shepherd.



## **Receive (20 minutes)**

### Hear God's Word.

You will need two leader-actors for this skit. Depending on what works best with your crew, enlist the help of two kids to be the actors for this skit or enlist the help of your co-captain to present this skit to your crew.

The scene is a job interview for a shepherd position. The shepherd should wear some kind of costume (Example: a robe and a broomstick or yardstick could resemble a staff.) Be creative with possible props. Set two chairs down, one facing the other.

Both characters enter the stage from opposite sides and sit down in the chairs.

Interviewer: **Welcome to Good Shepherd, Inc. I'm {name}.**

Shepherd: **Nice to meet you, I'm {name}.**

Interviewer: **Thanks for coming in today for the interview. I see you're interested in the shepherd position. Is that correct?**

Shepherd: **Yes, I read the job description, and it fits me perfectly. I've been caring for sheep for many years at another company. See, here's me with my flock!** Show the image of the shepherd with sheep.

Interviewer: **Good. You have experience. Can you tell me a bit more about that? What qualities do you have that you feel make you a good shepherd?**

Shepherd: **A good shepherd knows his sheep. He guides them along the right path. He keeps them close by and leads them. He corrects them with his staff when they get off track.** Hold up staff.



**Interviewer: Can you tell me about a time from your shepherding experience that you faced a problem, and how did you solve it?**

**Shepherd: I had 100 sheep to take care of. I loved them all! But one day I got up and when I did the head count, there were only 99! I counted again to make sure I hadn't miscounted... And I was so panicked when I realized one of my precious sheep had strayed away from the flock! You see, like I said, I love all of my sheep as if they were my children. So I searched until I found the lost one! After that, word spread about my story. You might have read about it.**

**Interviewer: That's a sweet story. You have a good and loving heart. Now, lastly, tell me why do you think you are the best candidate for this job of shepherd?**

**Shepherd: I'm the best shepherd because I love my sheep. This is not just a job to me. I really care about each and every one of my sheep. I make sure they receive great care and have everything they need. I help them calm down and rest. I protect them from wolves and other dangers. I love my sheep enough that I would lay down my own life to save them!**

**Interviewer: Well, you seem like a good shepherd to me. Thanks for interviewing today. We will be in touch with you about the job soon!**

**That was a fun way of introducing our story today! God tells us in his Word, the Bible, that he is the Good Shepherd. He loves and cares for us like a shepherd cares for his sheep. He knows what is good for us, and he guides us along the right path. He shows us what is true and good in his Word, the Bible.**

Read Luke 15:1-7 from a Bible.

**God gives us this picture of a shepherd to show us that his heart is good and loving toward us.**



Review the Bible verse.

“See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!” 1 John 3:1 (NLT)

Close in prayer.

### Engage and explore the story.

Distribute a copy of Handout 1 and a pen or pencil to each student. Instruct them to listen and respond as you read aloud three Bible passages that describe God as the Good Shepherd. There are three columns, one for each passage. Under each column, students should respond to the passage you read by writing one word that stands out to them, sketching an image that the passage brings to their mind, and writing one question that they have. After reading all three passages, choose three or four students to share a word, image or question they wrote down.

Encourage kids to participate in an interactive discussion by incorporating observation questions into a game when possible. See the CKC Games Bag for ideas.

- **What does a good shepherd do?** (They care for the sheep.)
- **How can you tell that the shepherd in the Bible story loves the sheep?** (He cares for and protects the sheep. He leaves the 99 sheep to rescue the one.)
- **What are some ways a good shepherd cares for his sheep?** (He feeds them. He makes sure they have water. He watches over their safety and health. He guides them on the right path.)
- **How does God care for you and me?** (Answers will vary. God shows us in his Word what is good for us. He provides for our physical needs as well. He loves us by forgiving our sins.)
- **How does it make you feel to know that God loves you?** (Answers will vary.)
- **How do you think we should respond to his love?** (Answers will vary. There is an opportunity to share the gospel here if the Holy Spirit leads.)



### **Respond (20 minutes)**

Apply God’s truth.

Ask:

- **Does anyone here have a pet?**
- **How do you feel about your pet?**



- **What do you (or someone in your family) do to take care of your pet?**

Optional: If you have a pet, show students a picture of your pet.

**Many people love their pets and take good care of them. God’s Word describes Jesus as the Good Shepherd because he cares for us like a shepherd cares for his sheep. But God’s love for you and me is much greater than the love we have for our pets or a shepherd has for his sheep. Jesus gave up his life so that we could be adopted as God’s children.**

**God created us and his love for us endures forever. God’s Word calls us his children when we put our faith in Jesus to be our Good Shepherd—our leader.**

Play a Bible verse game.

Review the Bible verse and play the suggested Bible verse game.

“See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!” 1 John 3:1 (NLT)

Hot Potato

Ask the students to sit or stand in a circle facing each other. Give one student a squishy ball and ask them to pass it around the circle. Each student says one word of the verse at a time (in order). Whoever is holding the ball on the last word is “out.” Continue until one student is left. Repeat for a few rounds. You can adapt the level of challenge by allowing students to choose how many words they say when they receive the ball.

Distribute one index card and a pen or pencil to each student.

**God’s heart is good and loving. How will you respond to God’s love? (What will you feel, say or do?)**

Give students one or two minutes to write their responses on the cards. You may collect them, or invite them to take the cards home and share with a family member what they wrote.

Sing and worship together.

Pick a song from the [Praise and Worship Guide](#), or choose one of your own. Incorporate movement into the songs whenever possible.

Pray together.



**Let's spend some time praying and giving thanks to God for his goodness and his love.**

Read aloud the prayer below from Psalm 136:1-9 (NLT), and instruct students to repeat the refrain "His faithful love endures forever." after each line.

An optional activity or take-home assignment for older students might be to re-write this prayer using their own descriptions of God's goodness and love in their lives.

**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!**

His faithful love endures forever.

**Give thanks to the God of gods.**

His faithful love endures forever.

**Give thanks to the Lord of lords.**

His faithful love endures forever.

**Give thanks to him who alone does mighty miracles.**

His faithful love endures forever.

**Give thanks to him who made the heavens so skillfully.**

His faithful love endures forever.

**Give thanks to him who placed the earth among the waters.**

His faithful love endures forever.

**Give thanks to him who made the heavenly lights—**

His faithful love endures forever.

**the sun to rule the day,**

His faithful love endures forever.

**and the moon and stars to rule the night.**

His faithful love endures forever.

Take prayer requests, and close in prayer.



**Handout 1: Scripture Response**  
**The Good Shepherd**

	<b>Luke 15:1-7</b>	<b>Psalms 23</b>	<b>John 10:11-14</b>
<b>Word</b>			
<b>Image</b>			
<b>Question</b>			





## Image 1: A Shepherd with Sheep<sup>1</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/shepherds-sheep/>

