



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

## 6-8 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 handful of random objects for a game (Objects may include <i>cones, books, beanbags, paper or plastic spoons</i>)</li> <li>• Handouts 1 and 2, one per student</li> <li>• Pens or pencils, one per student*</li> <li>• A sticker or sticky note, one per student</li> <li>• Index cards, one per student</li> <li>• Sheets of 8 by 11 inch copy paper, one per student (if you are choosing Option 2: Journal Reflection)</li> </ul>

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

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

Welcome students to club with a snack.

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

Icebreaker Options (Choose one.):

- Rosebud: Ask students to share a highlight or success from the week (a rose), a



challenge or disappointment from the week (a thorn) and something they are looking forward to doing or experiencing in the week ahead (a bud).

- Let students take turns sharing how they're feeling today using the Feelings Wheel (from the CKC Games Bag).
- Open a discussion with the question, "What is something that you wonder about God?"

### Build relationships.

#### What am I? Partner Game

Before your crew club session, gather a sticker or sticky note for every member of your crew club. On each sticker or sticky note, write an object, a food item, an activity or a place that your crew members would recognize. For example, a *shoe*, a *car*, *soccer*, a *dog* or the *beach*. To start the game, attach one sticker or sticky note to the back of each crew member making sure they cannot see what is written. Using only *yes-or-no* questions, each student goes around and asks questions of other crew members to find out what is on their back. The game is over when all students have figured out what is written on their sticker or sticky note.

### Play a game.

#### Follow the Shepherd's Voice

Find and locate several objects and lay them out on the floor of an open space. Examples may include *cones*, *books*, *beanbags*, *paper* or *plastic spoons*. Tell the students to find a partner. Each pair of students should designate one student to be the shepherd and the other student to be a sheep. Tell each student designated as a sheep to close their eyes and tell their shepherd's to help them line up in front of the objects that have been laid out on the floor. Tell students that they will need to listen to and follow their shepherd's voice to make it safely across the floor without touching any of the objects. When a student touches an object on the floor, they are out of the game. Once all students have either touched an object or successfully crossed to the other side, repeat the game again so that each pair of students can switch roles.

Lead a discussion around the following questions:

- **Why did you trust your shepherd to guide you? Did any of you doubt that the shepherd was guiding you along the "right path"?**
- **If we know that God is good and loving, and if we know God will guide us along the right path, how do we respond and live in that truth?**



## **Receive (20 minutes)**

### Hear God's Word.

**In the Bible, God is called a good shepherd. This may be a job that is unfamiliar to you, but back when the Bible was written, the job of a**



**shepherd was well known.**

**Thankfully, the Bible has a good description of the role of a shepherd in Psalm 23, a psalm that was written by a shepherd named David!**

Give every student Handout 2 and a pen or a pencil.

**As I read Psalm 23, consider the following shepherd facts that can be found in the second column of Handout 2. As you listen to Psalm 23, draw a line to connect the shepherd facts to what Psalm 23 says. There may be multiple connections and multiple lines drawn from any one shepherd fact.**

Read Psalm 23 from a Bible, pausing after each verse.

Come together and discuss the connections the students found between Psalm 23 and the shepherd facts.

**How might God be like this good shepherd that was described in Psalm 23?**

Take student responses.

**God 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 students 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.**



Review the Bible verse and read it aloud together. Then, choose one of the two activity options below.

“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)

**People who love us sometimes let us down, but God’s heart is always good and loving.**

Option 1: Discussion

Discuss together:

- **What comes to your mind when you think of God as a Father?**
- **What makes God a good and loving Father?**
- **What does it mean to be a child of God?**
- **How can you be sure that you are God’s child?**
- **How does knowing you are God’s child affect the way you see yourself?**
- **How does it affect your choices and your behavior?**

Option 2: Journal Reflection

Distribute pens or pencils and paper to each student to write a short reflection in response to this verse and the following question:

- Describe your relationship with God right now. How can you grow closer to God as his son or daughter?

Ask students who are willing to share what they wrote with the group.

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.



**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.

Give each student an index card and a pen or pencil and tell them to write a phrase describing God's goodness, thanking God for something about his character or what he's done. Collect responses and combine them together to create a customized group prayer or praise. Read aloud the phrases on the card, and let students repeat after each one "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>Psalm 23</b>	<b>John 10:11-14</b>
<b>Word</b>			
<b>Image</b>			
<b>Question</b>			



## Handout 2: Psalm 23 Match-Up

### **Psalm 23**

The Lord is my shepherd;  
I have all that I need.

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He lets me rest in green meadows; he  
leads me beside peaceful streams.

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He renews my strength.  
He guides me along right paths,  
bringing honor to his name.

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Even when I walk through the darkest  
valley, I will not be afraid, for you are  
close beside me. Your rod and your  
staff protect and comfort me.

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You prepare a feast for me  
in the presence of my enemies.

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You honor me by anointing my head  
with oil. My cup overflows with  
blessings.

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Surely your goodness and unfailing  
love will pursue me all the days of my  
life, and I will live in the house of the  
Lord forever.

### **Shepherd Facts**

Shepherds care for their sheep's  
needs night and day. They guide  
the sheep to grassy areas to graze  
and to areas with clean, calm water  
to drink.

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When it is hot, shepherds move  
their flocks to cooler pastures on  
higher ground.

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Sheep trust their shepherd and  
follow the shepherd's voice,  
especially when the journey is  
dangerous.

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Shepherds pour oil over their  
sheep's heads to protect them from  
flies, gnats and mosquitoes.

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Shepherds use a heavy wooden rod  
to protect the sheep from wild  
animals that might hurt them.

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The shepherd's staff is a long stick  
that shepherds use to guide the  
sheep and rescue them when they  
are stuck.

