



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

## K-2 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>● Image 1, one copy</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 students eat their snack:

#### Icebreaker Options (Choose one.):

- Ask the 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. Ask the student a get-to-know-you question.

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?

Once they have answered the question, introduce a new question and tell the student to pass the ball to another crew member. Continue to play until each student has had the opportunity to respond to one or two questions.

### 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.

**Today we are going to learn that just like a shepherd loves and takes care of his sheep, God loves and takes care of us!**

**We are going to play a game. I need one student to be the shepherd.**



Ask for a child to be the shepherd. Instruct the child to sit down in the middle of the circle.

**Our shepherd in the middle of the circle is going to be looking for their lost sheep.**

Hold up a cotton ball.

**This cotton ball is going to be the lost sheep. I am going to ask that the shepherd in the middle of the circle closes their eyes, and the rest of you, place your hands behind your back. I am going to place the lost sheep into a student's hands. Be sure to keep the cotton ball behind your back so that the shepherd does not know you are holding the lost sheep.**

Go around the circle, and place the cotton ball into a student's hands.

**Now, the shepherd can open their eyes. The shepherd is going to guess who has the lost sheep. If you are not holding the lost sheep in your hands, start making sheep noises. If you are holding the lost sheep, the sheep is lost, so you cannot make a sound!**

Once the shepherd finds who has the lost sheep, choose another student to be the shepherd and play again.



## **Receive (20 minutes)**

### Hear God's Word.

This skit will require you and your co-captain to act out this skit for 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 are 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 the 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.**

Introduce 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.

Prepare students with instructions for the following story visualization exercise.

**I want you to close your eyes and picture a “movie” in your head while I read three short passages from the Bible about the Good Shepherd.**

Read the following passages aloud from a Bible:

- Luke 15:1-7
- Psalm 23
- John 10:11-14

Ask children to share,

**What did you see?**

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.**

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.

### 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, and instruct students to repeat the refrain “His faithful love endures forever” after each line. Ask students to repeat the refrain softly at first and then progressively get louder.

#### **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.





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



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

