

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

CONTRIBUTOR NAME: REV. SHARON MILTON

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE/ LECTIONARY WEEK:	John 10:1-10
SOCIAL PRINCIPLES/ BOOK OF RESOLUTIONS REFERENCES:	Preamble of the Social Principles
OBJECTIVE:	To help youth understand that Jesus is the shepherd of all. No one is excluded. Every sheep is welcome through the gate. BY focusing on and listening to God’s voice, we can navigate the distractions and injustice around us.
SUPPLIES NEEDED:	Bibles, bubbles, blindfolds, tables, (optional: audio bible recording – <i>The Bible Experience</i> on YouTube)

LESSON PLAN STRUCTURE (1 HOUR)

CENTERING MOMENT (5 MINUTES)

Say: We are going to start with something simple and joyful. We are going to break into pairs (or small groups.) For the next two minutes, blow bubbles together and enjoy the moment.

(Pause for activity)

Say: Now pause for a moment. Notice how every bubble is different. Some big, some small, some floating longer than others but they are all part of the same group. None are excluded. Now silently blow bubbles on your own.

(Pause)

Say: Watch them float and pop.

(Pause)

Pray: God of love, help us slow down and notice your presence. Quiet our hearts so we can hear your voice. Amen.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER CONT'D

SCRIPTURE STUDY (25 MIN.)

Say: We are going to listen to scripture and I invite you to close your eyes and imagine the scene as we hear it.

(Read John 10:1-10 or play the audio from The Bible Experience on Youtube)

Say: Take a breath. Now let's talk about what you noticed.

Reflection Questions:

What did you feel, hear, or visualize while listening?

What stood out to you the most?

Discussion Questions:

- What is the role of a shepherd?
- How is Jesus our Shepherd?
- Why do the sheep recognize the shepherd's voice?
- What distractions in life make it hard to hear God clearly?
- What have your parents or guardians taught you about strangers?
- When Jesus says, 'Whoever enters', who is included in that invitation?
- Are some sheep more important than others?
- Why might the thief want to block sheep from entering the gate?
- How does Jesus show that all sheep are welcome, no matter their differences?
- What can we do to help others find their way to the gate?

GROUP ACTIVITY (25 MIN.)

Hearing God Through the Noise

Say: This next activity will help us experience what it's like to listen for God when life is loud and when some people face more obstacles than others.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER CONT'D

Say: We need 7 volunteers.

- Two participants (A and B) will be blindfolded and wait outside the classroom.
- Two guides to help safely bring them in
- Two distractors to help person A but to mislead or block person B
- One Voice of God to stand across the room and keep calling both person A and B's name

Say: The rest of the class will remain at our tables or groups and create loud conversations about school, sports, social media, relationships, stress, anything that creates noise. Your job is to be distractions.

(Pause for activity)

Debrief Questions:

- What did it feel like trying to reach the voice with so much noise?
- How did it feel to be helped?
- How did it feel to be blocked?
- How does this reflect real life- especially for people who are marginalized or treated unfairly?
- Where do we see systems that make it harder for some people to hear God's voice or find belonging?
- What can we do to help people who are treated unfairly or left out?
- How can we better tune into God's voice amid life's distractions?
- How can we help others find and follow the Shepherd?

CLOSING MOMENT (5 MIN.)

Say: Jesus welcomes all sheep into the fold, no matter their background, identity, or struggle. As followers of Christ, we are to do the same.

NOTES

Instructions:

Both blindfolded participants try to make their way to the "Voice of God" while navigating through distractions.

Person A has an easier journey (helped), while Person B is blocked or misled (to simulate unequal access and marginalization).

Eventually, both reach the "Voice of God."