



**INTRODUCTION**

Invite the group to think of someone they would describe as a caring person.  
 In what ways does this person show care for others?  
 What are some examples of ways that people show care for others by making a sacrifice?

Stress the true meaning of making sacrifices for the good of the others- giving up something for the good of another person before one’s own.  
 Family members or other people may fail in giving care or showing love, but there is someone who never fails loving us.

Let us listen to the Gospel reading on this Fourth Sunday of Easter where Jesus gives us the image of Himself as a loving shepherd who cares for us, His sheep.



**OPENING PRAYER**

Dear Lord, we thank you for the works that you have done in your Father’s name for they bear witness of you. We believe in you because we are your sheep, you are our good shepherd. We heard your voice, know you, and follow you. Thank you for the eternal life that you have promised to your sheep. Lord, on this Good Shepherd Sunday, we will give thanks because in you we will never perish! No one will snatch me from your hand. Your Father, who has given us to you, is greater than them all, Amen.

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**PHASE ONE  
 REMEMBER THE STORY OF JESUS**

**1.1 Proclamation of the Gospel Story John 10:11-18**  
*Enthroned the Bible on a table with lighted candle)*

**A moment of prayerful silence**

*We will not be able to understand the Word of God unless God himself opens our hearts. Let us now welcome Jesus as he speaks to us through his Word*

*Alleluia. “Ako an maupay nga magmarangno,” nasering an Ginoo, “Nakilala ako han akon mga karnero ug an akon mga karnero nakilala liwat ha akon.” Alleluia.*

*(Alleluia, I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. alleluia)*

*Reader: A reading from the Gospel according to John*

11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away

—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13 The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 I have other sheep that do not belong to



this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. 17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have

power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

*Reader: The Gospel of the Lord*

*All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

**1.2 Brief Guided silent Meditation / Personal Prayer Text in Context**

In the old Testament, the image of shepherds and sheep is often used. For example, Moses and David were shepherds before they became leaders of their people. Writers of Old Testament books are so natural to call God as shepherd.

Sheep are common animals in the Bible lands, they are raised for meat, milk and wool. Shepherds take a hard work. Since the sheep are helpless animals, they have to be protected from lions and wolves which may also endanger their life. Shepherds bear harsh weather while taking care of them in the field and loneliness being away from the family. Sheep easily get away from the flock, but they learn to recognize the voice of their shepherd.

1. What does a good shepherd do for his sheep?
2. How does the hired man act when the sheep are in danger? (He runs away.)
3. What does Jesus say that the good shepherd will do for his sheep? (lay down his life for the sheep)
4. Why does the good shepherd act differently than the hired man? (The good shepherd cares for the sheep.)
5. Who do you think are those who belong to the sheepfold of Jesus. Who are those *that do not belong to this fold?*
6. What is Jesus’ dream for the flock?

7. How does the Father feel about Jesus' having one flock? What do you think it means?

**PHASE II REFLECT the Story  
of the Church  
(Teachings of the Church)**



On this Fourth Week of Easter, we continue to pay attention to what Jesus Christ has done for us through his passion, death, Resurrection. We may not be able to attend Mass, physically, on Sundays due to lockdown, but we hear the one voice of God through the Scriptures (Word of God-Bible)

In today's Gospel, Jesus himself tells us:  
***The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep... I know my own and my own know me...***

In these words, Jesus tenderly assures us again and again: *I offer my life for you on the cross. You are worth dying for because I love you.*

During the 40 days of lent we reflected on how Jesus suffered in the hands of the Religious leaders (like scribes, teachers of the law). Jesus did a lot of good things to those who needed most compassion such as those who are physically ill - the blind, lame, lepers, and those sick in the spirit like sinners. But he was rejected by those who do not believe in him and was put to death like a criminal.

However, God raised him up on the third day, never to die again. By what he suffered he showed his great love for us... And who are those he loves, YOU and ME.

Jesus is our shepherd. We are his sheep. He binds our wounds of selfishness and he guides us along to the right path, so that no one can snatch us away from him. When we are lost, he searches for us to bring us back to the fold. He carries us to the spring of water to revive our troubled hearts. He brings us to the green fields to refresh us from our worries and problems.

Jesus personally knows each one of us fully well. He knows what is in our hearts and minds. He knows our failures and hopes. If we are attentive enough, he speaks to us in many different ways.

How open am I to Jesus who is very much interested in all that I do?  
Do I consult him when I decide something important that will affect my life?  
Have I experienced Jesus as the Good Shepherd? When was that?

Nobody obliges Jesus to do all this for us. He wills that each one of us be saved:

***I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again.***

By the power of Jesus, the only Savior of the World, we are to gain salvation. And by the same power, he has risen from the dead. So that by his resurrection, we are to share eternal life with him.

The image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd captures the meaning of the PASCHAL MYSTERY. Jesus' suffering, death, Resurrection, and Ascension are

the final event of his dying and rising to new life. Jesus teaches us that new life comes after death.

The Good Shepherd tells us:

*I have laid down my life for you. I have been there.*

Think about your everyday life.

What part of your person needs to die so that you may become the new person that God wants you to become? Where do you think Jesus, the Good Shepherd, wants to lead you in his dying and rising? How can I be a shepherd to others, starting from my own family and community at this time of pandemic?

How come Jesus is willing do die for the sheep, for us?

Jesus' love for us comes from his union with the Father. Jesus is so much connected with the Father, that he will do everything to please him. Jesus and the Father are one. For this Jesus said:

*Just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. They share the same dream: to bring back to the fold those who are lost so that all may belong to the one flock, one shepherd.*

***For this reason, the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again, ...I have received this command from my Father.***

Jesus' love for us is rooted in his close communion with the Father. That's why Jesus intimate love for us will never end. It is eternal because the union of the Father and Jesus is without end.

**PHASE THREE RESPOND – with/ in my personal  
faith /community faith story**

The Church is like the sheepfold of Jesus. Jesus is our Shepherd. We are his sheep. Jesus entrusts the Church to leaders to take care of us. We have the Pope, Bishops, Priests Deacons and Religious Sisters and brothers together with other Church Workers who continue the mission left by Jesus.

Today is called Good Shepherd Sunday and is also the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

We know that a lot more people are yet to hear and experience the love and care of the Good Shepherd.

What can you do to share the responsibility for fostering vocations in the Church?



**CLOSING PRAYER**

Let us pray for more vocations in the Church

See Psalm 23 The Lord is my Shepherd for closing prayer

**BACKGROUND FOR THE CATECHISTS**

**CCC 754** "The Church is, accordingly, a *sheepfold*, the sole and necessary gateway to which is Christ. It is also the flock of which God himself foretold that he would be the shepherd, and whose sheep, even though governed by human shepherds, are unfailingly nourished and led by Christ himself, the Good Shepherd and Prince of Shepherds, who gave his life for his sheep.

