



Christian Education

Bulletin Insert

May, 04

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Good Shepherd Sunday, Easter 4, May 2

The name for this Sunday came about because the gospel reading, John 10:22-30 tells of Jesus as the good shepherd who knows and loves his sheep and will lose none of them. Earlier, the same chapter speaks of Jesus being willing to lay down his life for his sheep. Psalm 23 is also read on this day. Encourage children to count the number of times the word 'shepherd' or 'sheep' are mentioned on this Sunday. Are any of the hymns about a shepherd? Make 'sheep' to hang in your kitchen or family room. Cut sheep silhouettes from bristol board, and put a family member's name on each one. Glue cotton balls onto them for wool.

Rogation Sunday, Easter 5, May 16

This is a time when, traditionally, Christians asked God's blessing on the seeds which were to be sown. These days it has been extended to include prayer for many more aspects of the creation. This might be a good time to talk with children about the need to conserve and preserve the good things God had given us, and how we might do this. Perhaps they might take part in a local "clean up" drive, think of ways to save energy at home, or start to recycle some of the household garbage.

Pentecost, May 30

The old name for Pentecost was Whit Sunday, because large numbers were baptized on this day and wore white on this special occasion. Read the story of the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples with wind and fire in Acts 2:1-11, or in a children's Bible. Challenge children to try reading the list of countries mentioned in verses 9 and 10 and explain that this long list was a way of saying that all the countries in the known world were represented. It was

like saying "all countries from A to Z." Talk about the gift of language and the ability to declare the good news of Jesus Christ to all people. Encourage children to learn a simple 'Hello' song in English, German, French and Spanish. It is sung to the tune 'London's Burning.'

Good morning, Good morning,
Guten Morgen, Guten Morgen,
Bonjour, Bonjour,
Buenos Dias, Buenos Dias.

If all family members learn the song, it can be sung as a round, and might sound like the babble of different languages mentioned in the story.

Play some wind-blowing games today. Blow football is fun. Use a small rubber ball and straws to blow through and try to move the ball towards 'goalposts' marked at each end of a table.

Another option might be to have paper boat races across a large bowl of water or in the bath.

Remind children that the Holy Spirit is like the wind in that, although we can't see him, we can see what he does. Talk about mouth to mouth resuscitation and how breathing into someone can sometimes give them new life.

A Red-letter Day!

Notice the red hangings and vestments in church on Pentecost. Go to town with red (representing flames) on Pentecost. Wear something red all day. Drink red juice. Use red napkins and red candles and decorate with red balloons. Have beets or tomatoes as part of your meal, and red jello for dessert.

A Crafts Website

For a good selection of children's craft ideas on a wide variety of subjects go to www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts. You can find crafts by subject or by the material used. For example, there are pages of ideas for Mothers' Day, Fathers' Day, puppets and summer crafts.

For Fun

What grows down when it grows up?

∇ goose.