

Family Devotion

Week of March 15, 2026

“The Work of Imagination” Series

“The Shepherd Who Knows Your Name”

MEMORY VERSE

“I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep and they know me.”

— John 10:14

■ *Tip for families: Write this on a sticky note and put it on the refrigerator this week!*

READ TOGETHER

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. I know my own sheep and my own sheep know me.”

— **John 10:11, 14**

A STORY TO SHARE

Read this aloud together as a family:

There was once a farmer named Mr. Henry who had a flock of thirty sheep. Every single one of them had a name.

There was Clover, who always wandered too close to the fence. There was Biscuit, the oldest sheep, who walked slowly but always stayed close. There was a tiny lamb named Pepper who had been born in the middle of a snowstorm and had to be carried inside and warmed by the fire.

One evening, Mr. Henry was counting his sheep as they came into the barn for the night. One by one they came — Clover, Biscuit, Pepper, and all the rest. But when he finished counting, he was one short.

It was getting dark. It was cold. Anyone else might have said, “I have twenty-nine safe sheep in the barn. That’s enough for tonight.” But not Mr. Henry. He knew exactly who was missing — a

young sheep named Scout, who had a habit of chasing butterflies into the tall grass and forgetting the way home.

So Mr. Henry grabbed his lantern and his walking stick and went out into the dark field. He called out — not just “here sheep, here sheep” — but “Scout! Scout, where are you?” And after a while, from somewhere deep in the tall grass, came a small, frightened bleat.

Mr. Henry followed the sound until he found Scout — cold, tangled in some brambles, and very glad to see that lantern coming through the dark.

He untangled her gently, wrapped her in his coat, and carried her all the way home.

That is the kind of shepherd Jesus says he is. Not a shepherd who only cares about the group — but a shepherd who knows every single one by name. Who notices when you are missing. Who comes looking. Who carries you home.

And here is the amazing thing — **Jesus knows your name.** Not just your first name. He knows everything about you. What makes you laugh. What scares you. When you feel left out. When you are trying really hard. When you feel lost in the tall grass.

And he always comes looking.

QUESTIONS FOR KIDS

Use these to talk together as a family — there are no wrong answers!

■ ■ For little ones (ages 3–6):

- What was the name of the sheep that got lost?
- How do you think Scout felt when she saw Mr. Henry’s lantern coming?
- Can you think of a time when you felt scared and someone came to help you?

■ ■ For older kids (ages 7–12):

- Why do you think Mr. Henry went looking even when it was dark and cold? He already had twenty-nine safe sheep!
- Jesus says he is like a good shepherd. What does that tell you about how Jesus feels about you?
- Is there someone at school or in your neighborhood who might feel a little like Scout — left out, or like nobody notices them? What could you do this week?

■ ■ For the whole family:

- What is one way our family can look out for someone who might feel lost or left behind this week?
- If Jesus knows your name and everything about you — does that feel comforting or a little surprising? Why?

FAMILY ACTIVITY

■ The Name Game

This activity helps everyone feel seen and known — just like the sheep in today’s story.

What you need: Paper and something to write with

Sit together as a family. Give everyone a piece of paper. Each person writes their name at the top.

Then pass the papers around the circle. Each family member writes one thing they love or appreciate about the person whose name is at the top — something specific, not just “you are nice.” Things like:

“You always make me laugh at breakfast” or “You were really kind to me when I was having a hard day.”

When the papers make it all the way around, give them back to their owners and read them aloud.

After the activity, talk about this together:

“God knows each of us even better than we know each other. How does it feel to know that God sees all of these things about you — and loves you completely?”

Keep the papers somewhere special — on the fridge, in a journal, or tucked into a Bible.

A FAMILY PRAYER

You can read this together, or let one person pray in their own words:

Good Shepherd,

Thank you for knowing each of us by name. Thank you that you notice when we wander, and that you always come looking.

Help our family to be like that for each other this week — to notice, to look out, and to make sure nobody feels lost or left behind.

And help us to be that for someone outside our family too. Show us who needs a little light in their dark field this week.

We love you. Amen.

“The Work of Imagination” continues next Sunday.

See you then — bring the whole family!