Activity for the Easter Season

The Good Shepherd

Scripture Focus: John 10:11–16 (Featured Story "Jesus Is the Good Shepherd"). The children play a game based on the Scripture passage, and then they make sheep with marshmallows. (*Optional:* If you have access to a kitchen, you can make s'mores with the children.)

Gather the following items: a picture of Jesus as the Good Shepherd; a stuffed sheep; one or two bags of both large and small marshmallows; toothpicks, several for each child; and if making s'mores, graham crackers and chocolate bars, as needed

Let's Look It Up! Have the children open *The Catholic Children's Bible* to the Gospel of John in the New Testament. Direct them to find chapter 10, verses 11–16. (*Note:* Consider making the Featured Story "Jesus Is the Good Shepherd" the basis for your lesson.)

Activity

1. Explain that the passage from Scripture today tells us that Jesus is the Shepherd who died and rose for us, his sheep. Jesus wants us to be with him, now and forever, as part of his flock.

2. Explain that Jesus is the Good Shepherd. Show the picture of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Explain that shepherds care for sheep and defend them from wolves and thieves. Explain that in some parts of the world, people are still shepherds.

3. Bring out the stuffed sheep. Ask for a volunteer to be the wolf. Ask one or two children to close their eyes, and instruct the wolf to snatch the sheep and then hide it somewhere in the room. Then have the children who closed their eyes look for the sheep while the rest of the group calls out "hot," "cold," or "warm," depending on how close the seekers come to finding the sheep. Repeat this game until all the children have had a chance to look for the stolen sheep.

4. When the game is over, hand out the marshmallows and toothpicks and have each child make her or his own sheep. If you have access to a kitchen, consider making s'mores for a treat. Explain that the graham cracker is the field, the chocolate is the ground, and the marshmallow is the sheep.