

### **Parable of the Good Shepherd** John 10:1-5

This parable shows the children that God's love and protection is everlasting. The Good Shepherd loves us so much that He is willing to die for us, so that we may have everlasting life. The children will come to know and love Jesus through these parables and will enjoy building a lasting relationship with Him. In time, the children will come to realize (although some older children may already) that they are the sheep and that The Good Shepherd (Jesus) knows each of us personally and calls us by name.

### **Parable of the Lost Sheep** Luke 15:4-6

This parable conveys the message that even if we stray from Jesus, He will continue to call for us, love us, and care for us. When the lost sheep is found, the Good Shepherd has tremendous joy that we are with Him once again! Jesus' love and mercy is everlasting and unconditional.

### **Eucharistic Presence**

This lesson will be given to the older children as they begin to see how we are the sheep, and the sheepfold is the church. Jesus the Good Shepherd calls all of us to be with Him in a particular way at mass, and that He gives himself totally to us in the bread and in the wine. This lesson is a long-term preparation for the sacrament of First Holy Eucharist and will lead to a more meaningful participation at Mass

### **Psalm 23**

"The Lord is My Shepherd. I have everything I need." This is a prayer written by David, a shepherd, who sang songs of praise to God as he cared for his sheep. These prayers are called Psalms. This is one way of responding to the call of the Good Shepherd.