

back on the right path. He gives us everything we need in life: good food, shelter, water, warm clothing, and friends and family who love us.

And when the devil threatened to pull us away from God, our Good Shepherd Jesus fought the enemy for us, and He won! Through His death on the cross, all our sins have been taken away, and someday we will live with Him in heaven forever.

While we're still here on earth, God gives us other shepherds – our pastors – to take care of us. Our pastors search for their lost and wandering sheep, lead them to the waters of baptism, give them Holy Communion, and help them to fight off the devil by teaching God's Word. When we sin, pastors remind us that Jesus loves us and forgives us.

Can you imagine how our churches would struggle without pastors? This is exactly the problem in the African country of South Sudan, where there aren't enough pastors for all the churches. But God is using our mission offerings to help men study at the seminary (pastor school), so they can be strong and faithful shepherds to the people there.

Pray that God will be with these seminary students, and with their teachers and families. And don't forget to pray for the sheep in South Sudan – people just like you and me, who are waiting to learn about Jesus, their Good Shepherd and ours.

We pray:

Heavenly Father, we thank and praise you for the great gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd who cares for us all the days of our lives. We also thank you for the faithful pastors You have sent to be the shepherds to your flock on earth. We pray that you would use our mission offerings to help train good and faithful pastors for the people of South Sudan, so that they will also hear Your Word and come to faith in You.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Chapel/Classroom Devotion:



School for Pastors in South Sudan



School for Pastors in South Sudan - Devotion

Responsive Reading: Psalm 23

Group 1: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Group 2: He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.

Group 1: He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of
righteousness for His name's sake.

Group 2: Even though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I will fear no evil,

Group 1: For You are with me; your and your staff, they
comfort me.

Group 2: You prepare a table before me in the presence
of my enemies;

Group 1: You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Group 2: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the
days of my life,

Together: and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Sing:

Choose a Good Shepherd-themed hymn to sing together. You
may wish to choose from

- LSB #710 The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want
- LSB #709 The King of Love My Shepherd Is
- LSB #735 Have No Fear, Little Flock
- LSB #740 I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

Taking Care of the Sheep

What do you know about taking care of a sheep?

If you're like most people, you probably don't know a lot! But
you'd soon find out that taking care of sheep is not an easy job.

A shepherd needs to guide the sheep to good food and water,
but this is sometimes easier said than done. Sheep never walk
in a straight line. They simply follow the rear end of the animal
in front of them, even if they're walking to their death!

Sheep balk at going into a river or other water, because their
wool can get soaked with water and become very heavy. If a
sheep stumbles and falls in the water, it can be impossible for it
to get up again. Without the shepherd's help, the sheep would
drown.

And if a sheep somehow becomes separated from the herd, it
is doomed! Sheep have poor eyesight, can't run very fast, and
have no horns to fight back. They are no match for any pred-
ator, and so the shepherd must fight off any wild animals with
his staff.

Aren't we just like sheep?

Think about it: We know the kind of life God wants us to live.
He wants us to follow the Ten Commandments, love Him with
all our hearts and treat all people kindly.

But like sheep, we never seem to be able to walk this straight
line. Instead, we follow our wandering thoughts and join in the
sinful actions of the people around us. The devil prowls around
us like a lion, trying to separate us from our Heavenly Father
and our church, and we're too weak to fight him off.

Thank God that He has sent Jesus to be our Good Shepherd!

When we are lost in our sin, Jesus comes to find us and puts us

(turn page)