

Kids' Chronicle

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BY JOE SARNICOLA

God's love is like a shepherd's

As Jesus sat on a grassy hill to talk with his disciples, many people from the nearby town gathered around to listen. Jesus began to talk about Ezekiel.

"Ezekiel was the son of Buzi, a priest in the kingdom of Babylon. He was a man of faith, and even though he lived over five hundred years ago, we can still learn from his words today. He spoke about having a kind heart and a pure spirit, and he delivered a message of hope."

Peter said, "My Lord, when I was a child, my teachers told me about Ezekiel, but I have forgotten much. Tell us of one of his visions."

Jesus said, "One day my father appeared to Ezekiel in a vision and told him to deliver this important message to the rulers of Israel."

"The shepherds are doomed because they are so busy taking care of themselves, that they have neglected their sheep. They drink the milk, wear the fine wool, and eat the best meat, but they are not caring for the needs of the sheep."

"Ezekiel interrupted. 'O Lord, often when I repeat your words to the people, they do not always listen to me. They treat me as if I were an entertainer.'

"Tell them that I, the living God, have spoken, and that they would be wise to listen. Because they were not watching, my sheep have been scattered all over the face of the earth. They have been attacked by wolves

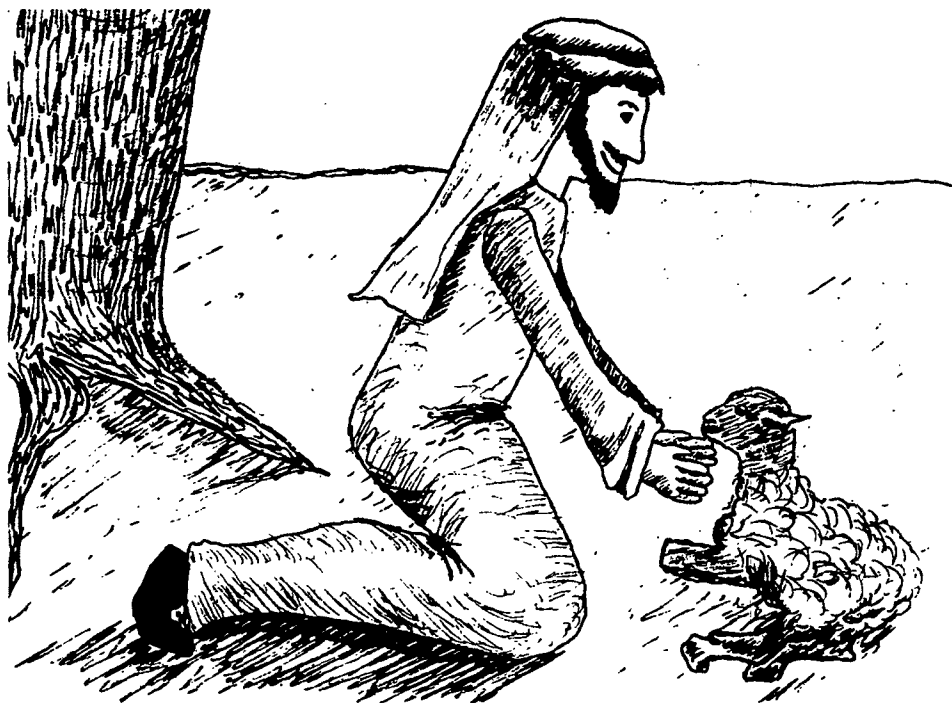


Illustration by Kathy Welsh

and no man is able to rescue them. I will not allow my sheep to live like this."

"What will you do?" asked Ezekiel.

"I will care for them myself, like a shepherd who watches over his flock night and day. If any of my sheep are injured, I will bandage their wounds. If any are lost, I will go and find them and bring them back to safety. I will feed them in the greenest pastures, and let them drink from cool, mountain streams.

"I will send rain when they need it, so that the trees will bear fruit and the harvest will be bountiful. Everyone will know that I have set my people free, and even the wild animals will not hurt them. My sheep are my people and I am their God."

"I will deliver your message, O mighty God," promised Ezekiel.

Then a man from the town asked Jesus, "Why is God so concerned about sheep?"

Jesus smiled and said, "If one of your own sheep fell into a hole, would you not grab hold of it and try to pull it out? And if you had 100 sheep and one wandered away, would you not leave the others to look for it? You are worth much more to God than sheep."

READ MORE ABOUT IT: Ezekiel 34

Q&A

1. Who was Ezekiel supposed to give his message to?
2. Who did Jesus say was worth more to God than sheep?

Bible Trivia

Who was the famous brother of Saint Andrew? (John 1).

Send answers to: Catholic Courier Bible Trivia, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Please include your name, address and school name with your entry.

All entries must be received by Dec. 16, 1993. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted. The winner will be notified by mail and receive a gift courtesy of Trants.

Last month's winner was Joy Ann Liberi of Buckman Heights School who correctly identified love as the greatest gift among faith, hope, or love (1 Corinthians 13).

Bible Animals

Unscramble the names of animals from the Bible.

1. stago	Job 39:1
2. phese	Psalms 79:13
3. odve	Genesis 8:8
4. gdso	Isaiah 56:10
5. geela	Ezekiel 17:3
6. hifs	Jonah 1:17
7. exfos	Matthew 8:20
8. grofs	Edodus 8:6
9. mar	Daniel 8:20
10. erosh	Revelations 6:2

Bible Accent

Sheep were a common sight to the people of ancient Israel. Rich men had many sheep, and sometimes they were even used to trade for other goods or livestock.

They were mainly valued for their wool, which was used to make most of the clothing of the time, and their milk was an important part of the Israelite diet. The time for shearing the sheep was as much a time of celebration as harvest time.

Sheep, with the proper training, can be taught to recognize and obey the voice of their shepherd. Without a shepherd, sheep are timid and fearful. This also makes them more likely to be lost and in danger of wolves or other wild predators.

By referring to his people as sheep, Jesus knew his lessons would be understood, as would Ezekiel's message. Sheep are often mentioned as symbols in both the Old and New Testaments, the most important reference being Jesus as the Lamb of God.

St. Andrew: a fisherman



Saint Andrew, a fisherman of Galilee, was one of the first disciples of Christ. After listening to Jesus teach, Andrew was also one of the first people to acknowledge him as being the Messiah.

When Jesus was teaching the crowd of 5,000 people, it was Andrew who brought the boy with the fish and bread. And Andrew was in the upper room when Jesus celebrated the Last Supper.

Andrew died a martyr's death, and he is the patron saint of Greece, Russia, and Scotland. His feast day is November 30.

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