

The sheep and the goats



Bible verses:
Matthew 25:31–46



Aim:
To better understand the reason
for Jesus' parables and think about
how we love God and love others



Today's fruit:
Faithfulness

Resource: *Sheep and shepherd sticks*



Memory verse

**'Depend on the Lord.
Trust him, and he will take care of you.'**
(Psalm 37:5 *ICB*)



Start it

Today we are going to hear a story Jesus told
about some goats and some sheep.



Share it

Share a child-friendly version of Matthew
25:31–46 (eg Biblegateway.com *ERV/EASY*)
or watch the following clip.

**'I just want be a sheep' (Christian
puppets)** by Happy Puppets (2:36)

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share
together:
(Show photos of a sheep and a goat)

- What are these animals?
- Where might you find them?
- What do you know about sheep and about goats?

- What is similar?
- What is different?
- Their behaviour can be similar and different too. (See Leader's Guide for more information.)
- Most sheep need a shepherd, but goats are largely happy doing their own thing. What might it mean if we want to be a sheep? Who is the shepherd?
- Why do you think Jesus told this story?
- What does it tell us about God?



Sing It

**'Every day of the week' (pre-school
worship)** by KidSpring Children's Ministry
(1:29)

'All through history' Nicky & Becky Drake
by Worship For Everyone (3:36)



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- Play a sorting game – use coloured plastic balls and buckets to sort the colours as quickly as possible. The children can be in teams, and collect their team's colour in their bucket.
- Play a number game: call out a number and the children have to get into groups of that number.
- Pray together. Give each child a sheep to draw themselves / write their name. They can choose to stick a shepherd's crook to the sheep if they want to be close to God –see *Sheep and shepherd sticks* handout
- Act out the story! Groups of three – or more – can be the shepherd, a goat and a sheep.