



DID JESUS TAKE CARE OF THE CHILDREN?

Slide 1

Slide 2 One day, some mothers brought their children to Jesus to be blessed by Him. Do you know what happened? Unbelievable! The disciples began to send them away.

Slide 3 - Go away, go away, go away; go away, we don't bother Jesus **Slide 4** for kids!

Fortunately, **Slide 5** Jesus saw them. He called them back, **Slide 6** took them in His arms and blessed them. **Slide 7** But he was very angry with the disciples:

- What are you doing there; he told them, **Slide 8** let the little children come to me! Do not prevent them from coming to me, for the kingdom of God is for those who are like them.

Yes, it is! Jesus welcomes all children, but the disciples were far from caring, because children were not their first concern; so he is going to tell them a story, **Slide 9** a shepherd's story. In the country, there were many flocks at that time and everyone knew shepherds. So they could all understand. It's a very simple story, but it makes us **Slide 10** think, because, as you know, in his little stories, his parables, Jesus always hid great truths.

Let us listen carefully this story to discover the truths hidden in this parable.

You can read it in **Slide 11** Matthew's Gospel, verses 10 to 14 of chapter 18.

Slide 12 JESUS IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Slide 13 In spring, when the grass starts to grow and the flowers bloom, **Slide 14** the shepherd goes into the mountains with his flock. **Slide 15** The meadows are green, dotted with brightly colored flowers; the air is pure; the water in the streams is clear. **Slide 16** The sheep and their lambs are happy to find fresh and tender grass. **Slide 17** They know their shepherd well; he is always with them.

Slide 18 In the morning, it is he who opens the door of the sheepfold **Slide 19** and leads them to the best pastures. **Slide 20** In the evening, when he calls them, **Slide 21** they gather around him.

They immediately recognize his voice. He takes the path to the sheepfold and they follow him head down, huddled together. **Slide 22** All day long, he is there with them, while they graze peacefully. He knows the name of each one. **Slide 23** This one is Bouclette, it's all curly!... **Slide 24** This other one with the black legs, well! Yes! It's Black Paw!... **Slide 25** That one is Blanchette, it looks like a big ball of white wool!... **Slide 26** and the little one who makes antics there, it's Intrepid. It is always necessary to have an eye on him!

Slide 27 One evening, while the sun starts to hide behind the summits, **Slide 28** the shepherd returns his flock, and as always, **Slide 29** he counts his ewes one by one.

When he reaches **Slide 30** 90, he feels a slight anxiety in his heart... **Slide 31**. 96, 97, 98, 99... But one is missing! He counts again: **Slide 32** 96, 97, 98, 99!

Slide 33 - No doubt, I'm missing one..., he says to himself more and more worried. Where can she be?

Slide 34 It is lost! I can't leave her alone in the night. **Slide 35** I absolutely must find her.

He leaves the 99 warm in the sheepfold and **Slide 36** he takes his stick back and here he goes on the way to the mountain; the night is already very dark. He calls...:

- Boo! Boo! Nothing! He calls again...:

Slide 37 - Boo! Boo!

Nothing... except the mountain that echoes his voice:

- Boo! Boo!

He presses the step, and continues to call:

Slide 38 - Where are you, where are you, little sheep?. Don't be afraid, it's me; I'm coming to get you.

Did you fall into a ravine? Are you hurt? Answer me! **Slide 39** It's me, your shepherd!

Slide 40 He seeks, he seeks again, he calls, he calls again without tiring. He listens, but not the slightest little bleating!

In the distance, over there, in the valley, he hears some dogs barking, and they seem to answer each other, and it is again the heavy silence of the night.

Perhaps, it is there, **Slide 41** behind that bush? **Slide 42** Or is it there, in that hole?

Slide 43 He climbs up, down, up, slips, catches up with the branches, hurts himself on the rocks.

Slide 44 He stops for a moment to catch his breath. He scans all around him but it is very dark, the moonlight is veiled by the clouds. He is attentive to the slightest noise but still nothing; **Slide 45** then he starts again:

Slide 46 - She is lost, he repeats to himself, **Slide 47** I must find her!

He has been walking for hours. **Slide 48** He imagines dogs that may have attacked her, or a wolf that devoured her! The mountain is dangerous - wild animals prowl around at night looking for prey.

Slide 49 Suddenly, he stops to listen better, he seems to hear a noise, it sounds like a faint bleating, over there, in the distance:

Slide 50 - Yes! It is surely her. That's it. She must have fallen over there! He starts running.

He approaches, **Slide 51** takes her carefully in his arms, caresses her. He is filled with joy:

- At last! How happy I am! **Slide 52** She was lost and I found her!

She is all trembling, cold but also afraid. **Slide 53** The shepherd puts her on his shoulders. He reassures her by talking to her as if she understands:

- We are going home. You will find the warmth of the sheepfold again. **Slide 54** Don't be afraid, I'm here now! You are no longer alone.

And here they go again. The ewe is confident, reassured; she bleats with contentment. It seems that she says thank you to him! She is well, there, on the solid shoulders of her shepherd. The return is joyful! **Slide 55** In the sheepfold, hearing them coming, the sheep wake up:

- Here they are! Here they are! **Slide 56** It is a concert of joyful bleats!

Slide 57 1, 2 3, 4 AND YOU AND ME!

Let's see together what this shepherd story teaches us. **Slide 58** First of all, the sheep.

Slide 59 What do they represent? Who does Jesus refer to? **Slide 60** Yes, he speaks of the little ones, the children, the people who have faith in him, he compares them to sheep.

Slide 61 And who is the **Slide 62** shepherd? Yes, he is **Slide 63** Jesus, he is the good shepherd.

Slide 64 And who is the lost sheep? **Slide 65** Have you guessed? Well, it represents **Slide 66** all those who are not yet in his flock, who are far from him, who are lost, **Slide 67** who do not know him or who do not believe in him. They are like this lost sheep, all alone, unprotected, separated from him.

Slide 68 So what is the great truth that Jesus has hidden in this little story? Have you guessed? He wants us to know that **Slide 69** He came to earth to seek and save **Slide 70** all men, but **Slide 71** also all children, even the youngest. **Slide 72** You too!

To sum up this story, we can read **Slide 73** verse 10 of Luke's Gospel - chapter 19: **Slide 74** "Jesus came to seek and save what was lost."

We can learn it by heart if you want.

We will repeat it again, you are ready, attention 1, 2, 3: **Slide 75** "Jesus came to seek and save what was lost!" - Luke 19/10. You can repeat it again.

Slide 76 4, 3, 2, 1 AND WE PARENTS!

This parable tells us clearly that God does not want any of these little ones to be lost and Jesus says that children as well as adults are lost but that He came to save them. We do not want to lose sight of this very important truth. **Slide 77** Our children need the good shepherd for their salvation, so we let them know this good news of God's love and encourage them to come to Jesus. If they haven't done so yet, well, let us continue to pray for them so that they do so as soon as possible.

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