

## Feast of Christ the King A: The Shepherd-King

*Storyteller (picks up the Parable Box):* This looks like something we've seen before! What do you think it is?

### Ezekiel 34:11-16

The LORD God then said:

I will look for my sheep and take care of them myself, just as a shepherd looks for lost sheep. My sheep have been lost since that dark and miserable day when they were scattered throughout the nations. But I will rescue them and bring them back from the foreign nations where they now live. I will be their shepherd and will let them graze on Israel's mountains and in the valleys and fertile fields. They will be safe as they feed on grassy meadows and green hills. I promise to take care of them and keep them safe, to look for those that are lost and bring back the ones that wander off, to bandage those that are hurt and protect the ones that are weak. I will also slaughter those that are fat and strong, because I always do right.

Do you think it's a parable? It looks like a parable box, doesn't it? It is the colour gold, and parables are even more precious than gold.

*Knock on the lid.* It is closed up by a lid. Parables are closed; they need to be opened up so we can see what is in them. Shall we open it? Let's look inside.

*Put the figure of the Good Shepherd on the flannelgraph.* The Lord God said "... I will look for my sheep and take care of them myself, just as a shepherd looks for lost sheep.

*Put some rocky places and some thorn bushes on the flannelboard.*

*Put three sheep – the stubborn sheep, the injured sheep, and the lamb -- on the board near the rocks and thorns, each one by itself. Put a group of three sheep together off by the rocks.* God said "My sheep have been lost since that dark and miserable day when they were scattered throughout the nations.

*Move the Good Shepherd figure over next to the little flock of three sheep. Then move the Good Shepherd over back toward the middle of the board, and have the sheep follow him. Move them in a couple of steps to show that they are moving together and the Good Shepherd is not leaving them behind.* But I will rescue them and bring them back from the places where they now live.

*Place the green pastures and still waters on the flannelboard lower down and over to the left, and move the Good Shepherd and the three rescued sheep onto the pastures.* God said "I will be their shepherd and will let them graze on Israel's mountains and in the valleys and fertile fields. They will be safe as they feed on grassy meadows and green hills."

*Place the sheepfold walls around the sheep on three sides, and place the Good Shepherd across the fourth side.* God said "I promise to take care of them and keep them safe,"

### Story Materials

- ☐ Flannelboard
- ☐ Felt figures:
  - ☐ Good Shepherd
  - ☐ Rocks
  - ☐ Thorns
  - ☐ 3 interchangeable sheep
  - ☐ Stubborn sheep
  - ☐ injured sheep
  - ☐ lamb
  - ☐ green hills
  - ☐ still water
  - ☐ 4 sheepfold walls
  - ☐ Good Shepherd carrying injured sheep

*Place the fourth wall across the sheepfold. Move the Good Shepherd over to the stubborn sheep “... to look for those that are lost and bring back the ones that wander off,”*

*Move the Good Shepherd and the stubborn sheep over to the injured sheep , and replace the Good Shepherd figure and the injured sheep figure with the Good Shepherd figure who is carrying the injured sheep. “... to bandage those that are hurt,”*

*Move the Good Shepherd and the stubborn sheep over to the lamb “... and protect the ones that are weak.”*

*Move the Good Shepherd and His lost sheep over to the sheepfold. Take the fourth wall down, and move the lost sheep in among the other sheep. Place the Good Shepherd back across the sheepfold opening.*