



Think First & Stay Safe!

"Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep". Luke 15:6

The Pet Lure

Lesson #9

Many of the children will have pets, or know someone who does. This is one of the reasons this is such a commonly used lure. Companion animals of all types are loved and cared for by adults and children. Birds, cats, dogs, ferrets, fish, rats, snakes, the list is as varied as are people. Connections to the lesson will be possible using the children's own pets. Pets are dependent on us for food, water, and love; just as we depend on God. Our love and care of our pets is an image of God's love and care for us.

The blessing of animals on St. Francis of Assisi's feast day (October 4th) is a common practice today. The least of God's creatures was important to Francis. Through his example of care, we are again reminded of the care of the Lord.

The children will likely be familiar with the story of the Good Shepherd. He leaves the 99 in order to search for the one which is lost. Each one of us is important to the Lord.



The Pets Lure

Lesson Plan # 9

Lesson Plan:

Prayer	Loving and gracious God, Help us to remember to always think first and stay safe; <i>St. Francis, help me to love God's creation as you did.</i> This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.
Scripture	Genesis 1: 20-26 <i>Creation story</i> Luke 15: 4-7 <i>Lost Sheep</i> Psalm 23 <i>The Lord is my Shepherd...</i>
Saint or Hero	Francis of Assisi The Good Shepherd

Additional Catechist Resources:

Symbol	sheep/shepherd children's pets
Music	<i>Away in a Manger</i> <i>Little Drummer Boy</i> <i>All the Ends of the Earth</i> (Marty Haugen, GIA) <i>All Creatures of our God and King</i> (Oxford University Press)
Liturgy or Rites	<i>Order for the Blessing of Animals</i> (Book of Blessings, Liturgical Press)
Prayers	
Church Teachings	Social Doctrine of the Church: 452; see also 451, 461, 462, 465: <i>"...relationship of man with the world is a constitutive part of ...human identity. ... The Lord has made the human person to be a partner with him in dialogue. Only in dialogue...does the human being find his truth..."</i> Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, USCCB 2005