



Cooperative Baptist  
Fellowship North Carolina

# FAITH FAMILY TALKS

CBFNC is offering this resource from the CBF Children's Ministry Network, to our state fellowship to provide families weekly spiritual conversation starters. Our hope is that this resource empowers parents to have more faith-filled conversations at home.

*Listen. Talk. Go.*

February Faith at Home

February 2023



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## FEATURED RESOURCES: FAITH FAMILY TALKS

### WEEK OF FEBRUARY 6

#### Listen

*Open your Bible and read John 10:11-15.*

We read a lot of stories in our Bible that describe God and Jesus in different ways. Because we can't see or touch God and Jesus, sometimes we need to come up with ways to describe them so we understand how they act or how they look or how we feel when we come close to them. In our story this month, Jesus describes himself as a "Good Shepherd." A shepherd is someone who helps take care of sheep. Shepherds would spend so much time with their sheep that the sheep would know what the shepherd's voice sounded like and would follow the shepherd wherever the shepherd would lead them. This month, we will talk about ways we can follow Jesus, even if we can't hear his voice.

#### Talk.

- What are some ways you describe God and Jesus?
- Do you think the shepherd knew the sheep's baas as well as they knew the shepherd's voice?
- What are some other stories in our Bible that have shepherds or sheep in them?

*Dear God, Thank you for loving us. Thank you for giving us so many ways to describe you and understand you. Help us to always be listening for your voice. Amen.*

#### Go.

Find time this week to play Marco Polo with your family! Find an open space like your living room or your yard. Have one person close his or her eyes and be the seeker and count to 25. Have everyone else spread out and then stay in their spot. Keeping their eyes closed, have the seeker call out "Marco!" and have everyone else respond "Polo!" See if the seeker can find everyone just by listening for their voices. When they get close enough to someone to touch them, that person has been found. Keep going until everyone has been found.

Want to make it a little more challenging? Only have the seeker find one person, but have everyone say "Polo." The seeker has to listen for just the one person's voice and find them.



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## FEATURED RESOURCES: FAITH FAMILY TALKS

### WEEK OF FEBRUARY 13

#### Listen.

*Open your Bible and read John 10:11-15.*

Last week, we talked about different ways we describe God and Jesus. In this passage, Jesus is described like a shepherd. Part of being a shepherd is to protect the sheep from anything that could scare or hurt them. Most of the time, the sheep were out in a big field and could walk around wherever they wanted. They didn't have a fence or a leash to keep them close by. Sheep like to stay close to each other, but sometimes they would wander off. When that would happen, the shepherd would call to the sheep and they would follow the shepherd's voice until they were back where the shepherd could see them. Sometimes we forget to stay close to Jesus, too. But if we pay attention and listen closely, we might see things that remind us to come close to Jesus again. Or we might even hear Jesus calling out to us to come back and be close to him.

#### Talk

- What are some things we can do to help us stay close to Jesus?
- How can we know when we aren't as close to Jesus as we should be?
- Who is someone in your life that when you hear their voice you know exactly who they are, even if you can't see them? How do you feel when you hear their voice?

*Dear God, Thank you for loving us. Help us to try our best to stay close to you. If we forget, help us to find our way back to you. Help us to show others what it means to be close to you, too. Amen.*

#### Go.

Sometimes we can get upset with a sibling or a friend, and we want to run away and stay angry with them. But one of the ways we can stay close to Jesus is to calm down and talk to the person who were are upset with. You can calm down by doing a breath prayer. Practice this as a family: take a deep breath in and think, "Jesus my shepherd." As you breathe out, think, "Keep me close to you." Try doing this three times in a row as a family. The next time you get upset or angry with someone, use this prayer to help yourself stay close to Jesus.



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## FEATURED RESOURCES: FAITH FAMILY TALKS

### WEEK OF FEBRUARY 20

#### Listen.

*Open your Bible and read John 10:11-15.*

Part of taking care of sheep means making sure they have good grass to eat and cool water to drink. That meant that the shepherd would find a place that had enough to eat and drink for a few days, and then the shepherd would have to move the sheep to a new place. The shepherds would show the sheep where to go and would make sure they had everything they needed. They would make sure that none of the sheep got lost or were left behind. The sheep had to trust the shepherd enough to follow them and know that they would be okay. Every sheep—from the oldest, slowest sheep to the youngest, bounciest sheep—were taken care of and loved. When we talk about Jesus as a shepherd, it is because Jesus knows each and every one of us by name and wants to make sure we know we are loved and are taken care of. When we love Jesus as much as he loves us, it is easier for us to stay close to him and have him show us where to go and what to do.

#### Talk.

- Imagine what it would be like for only a few shepherds to have to move a big group of sheep from place to another. How would they know that all of the sheep stayed with them? What do you think they would do if one of the sheep got lost or left behind?
- Who are people in your life that remind you of Jesus because they make sure you have everything you need?

*Dear God, Thank you for loving us. Thank you for never leaving us behind and for always staying close to us. Amen.*

#### Go.

If there is a day with nice weather this week, take some time as a family to go sit in your yard or go to a nearby park and sit outside. Make sure to take some cool water with you. Sit down directly on the grass so you can feel it. As you sit in the grass and drink the water and feel the warm sun on your face, just enjoy being still for a moment and enjoying God's presence.



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## FEATURED RESOURCES: FAITH FAMILY TALKS

### WEEK OF FEBRUARY 27

#### Listen.

*Open your Bible and read John 10:11-15.*

We have been reading the same story all month long! By now, you should remember a lot of it and be able to tell the story by memory. As a family, work together to retell this Bible story. We have been talking all month long about what it means to follow Jesus. We have to know Jesus and love him so much that we know what it sounds like or feels like to be close to him. We have to do our best to listen for his voice and to do things that help us stay close to him. We have to trust him and know that he will lead us where we need to go. This is something that we have to work on for our entire lives! Sometimes we might forget, but the important thing to remember is that Jesus will always be with us and will always want us to be close to him.

#### Talk

- What is your favorite part of our story from this month?
- What is one new thing you've learned from our story this month?
- What is one new thing you will do to help you remember to stay close to Jesus?

*Dear God, Thank you for loving us. Thank you for the story of Jesus being like a shepherd. Help us to do our best to be good followers and to always trust in you. Amen.*

#### Go.

Give each member of your family a piece of paper and things to draw with (crayons, markers, paint, etc.). Take some time and have each person create a picture of this story. Then take some time and share what is in your picture with the people in your family. Place your pictures someplace where you can see them: on a mirror, on the fridge, in a window. Each time you see the picture, remember that we should be good followers of Jesus the shepherd.



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