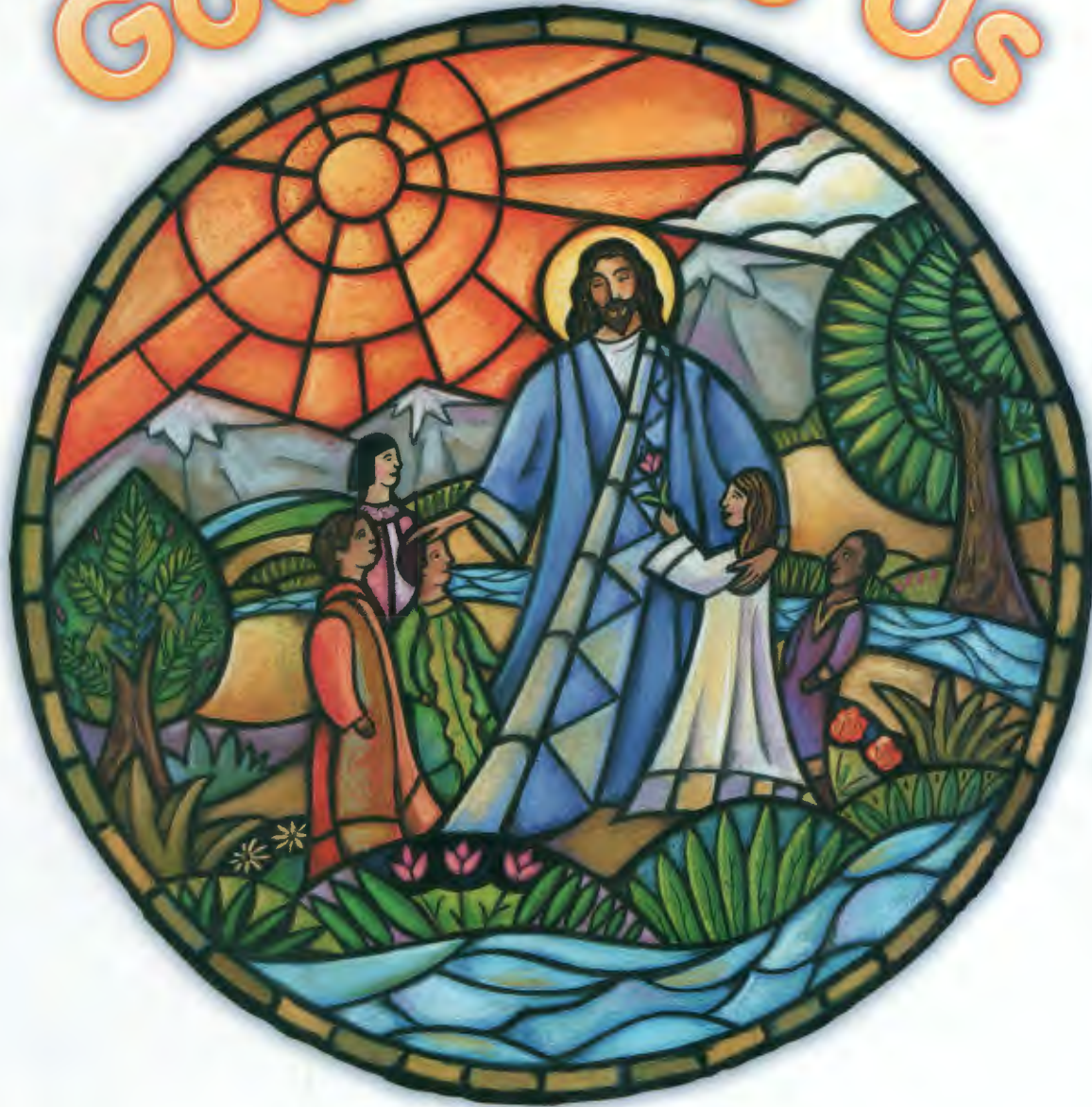


KINDERGARTEN

God Loves Us

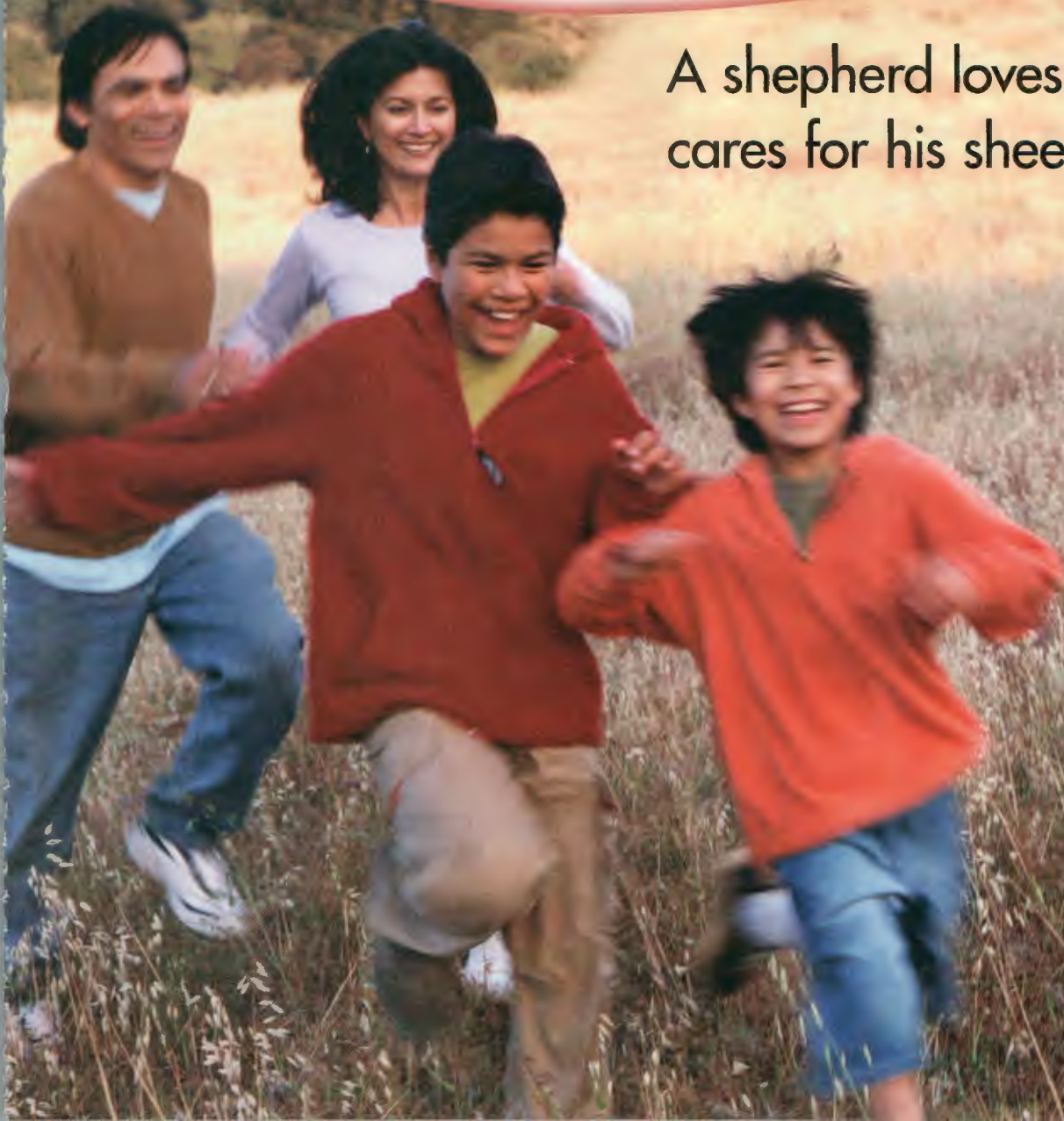


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Shepherds Are Good

A shepherd loves and
cares for his sheep.





Scripture

Jesus said, "The shepherd of the sheep enters the sheepfold through the gate. He calls the sheep by name.

When the shepherd brings the sheep out, he walks ahead to lead them. The sheep follow because they know his voice."

Based on John 10:1–5

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep. They know me. I call them by name. I am willing to die for my sheep."

Based on John 10:14–16



Jesus loves and cares for us.
We love Jesus, the
Good Shepherd.



Try This

Color the staff and the wolf.

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, knows
you and calls you by name.

What do you want to tell Jesus?

Shepherding in Families

The Lesson Your Child Learned

The relationship of love and trust that can exist between the human person and Christ is exemplified in the parable of the Good Shepherd. In this chapter the children learned about the protective love Jesus has for each of them as they heard the parable of the Good Shepherd. They received a Good Shepherd cutout set that they may set up at home as a reminder of Jesus' constant concern for them. We are all called to be shepherds in some way. Parents are responsible for their children's religious formation, teachers for the message they give the children.



Living the Lesson

You probably have many opportunities to serve as a good shepherd to people in your life, starting with the influence you have on the child in your care. It's important, then, that your interactions with these people aren't on autopilot. That is, you don't rush from activity to activity, from chore to chore, without stopping occasionally to be aware of where you are, who you are with, and what you are doing.

Here's a trick to help increase your awareness. The next time you and your child are doing something as simple as picking up toys and straightening things up in the family room, imagine yourself many years in the future looking back on this moment. From that vantage point, what seems important about this current moment? It probably isn't the orderliness of the family room as much as it is the time spent with this precious child at this time in his or her life.

Life in a family can be busy and demanding. It's also a time of miracles. Make it your spiritual goal to find ways to be mindful so that the busy-ness and the demands don't make you miss the miracles.

—Tom McGrath, author of *Raising Faith-Filled Kids* (Loyola Press)

Bringing the Lesson Home

- Read with your child the pages from this chapter that were sent home.
- Invite your child to say or to sing Psalm 23:1. Have your child use the Good Shepherd cutouts to tell the parable.
- Find age-appropriate ways to let your child show care for others.

