

Introductory session

Notes

Main Point

Christians believe that we are special to God. He cares about us.

Purpose

- To introduce yourself and to start to get to know the children.
- To introduce God as being interested in them as individuals.

Preparation

- Read and reflect on Psalm 23, John 10: 1-18.
 - We are like sheep with God as our ever watchful shepherd. He knows what we need; rest and refreshment, direction and protection, the promise of His kindness and love and an eternity with Him. We can be certain that we are special to God, whether we are adults or children.
- Ask the school for a class list for each class you are instructing so that you may learn the children's names.
 - Commit these children to God.
- Make a nametag for yourself and one for each of the children out of stiff card. Attach a piece of soft wool or ribbon to each nametag, long enough to fit easily around the child's neck.
- Make copies of BLM 10 God is like a shepherd and the student activity page (taken from the Student Workbook).
- Find a picture of some animals, including a sheep.
- Choose a couple of items that say something about you (for example, photos of your family and/or pets, a book related to a hobby that you enjoy).
- Choose a simple song to sing. The song 'Good or Bad' from the CD New Tracks...(www.accessministries.org.au) is simple and easy to learn.
- For these transitional lessons, the children will be provided only with photocopyable sheets as a record of what they have been learning.

Collect items you may need.

- Contemporary English Version Bible (CEV)
- copies of the worksheet for each child and a few spare
- nametags
- pictures of animals including sheep
- CD and CD player

Values

- Significance
- Innovation, inquiry and curiosity

Orientation

- Ask the children to sit in a circle on the floor.
- Introduce yourself and show your nametag. Put it on.
- Show the items that tell something about you. Say a few things about each of them.
- Play 'I Spy'. Look at your children and name things concerning them as clues. ('I spy someone with blond, curly hair:') As the person is guessed, ask their name and give them their nametag.
- Repeat these four or five times. Give out the remaining nametags with questions such as 'I am thinking of a person whose name starts with a J (make the sound) (If you haven't made nametags, work through the alphabet: 'Hand up if your name starts with A (make the sound) for Andrew, B for Bella ...')

Guided Discovery

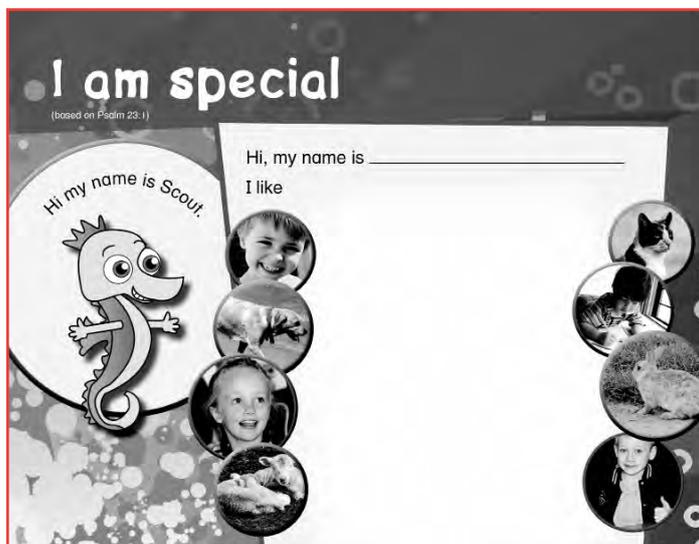
- Show them the pictures of the animals one by one, finishing with the sheep.
 - Q What is this?
 - Q Who looks after animals? (vets, pet owners, farmers)
 - There is a special name for someone who looks after sheep.
 - Q Does anyone know what s/he is called? (Students may not be familiar with the word 'shepherd'.)
 - A shepherd looks after the sheep because

they are special to him/her.

- Explain that you have come to the school to help them learn about God as understood by Christians.
- Show the children your Bible.
 - The Bible is the special book for Christians and where they go to learn about God. Christians believe that it shows us that we are special to God, like the sheep are special to a shepherd. We are all special to God. God is like a shepherd to us caring for people. Because he cares, Christians believe that God sent His Son Jesus, to show us what God is like. We learn about Jesus in the Bible as well.
- Explain that you have come to teach SRI Christianity (that means Special Religious Instruction) because your parents have chosen for you to be in this class. You have come to help them learn about what Christians believe including the belief that God cares about each one of them. We are all very special to God.
- Ask the children to stand and stretch up high, crouch down low, stand up tall and sit down again (to get rid of any 'wriggles').
- Ask the class to listen while you play a song to them., that talks about what Christians believe.
 - Say each line of words while they repeat it after you.
 - Play the CD again encouraging the children to join in if they can and what to.

Student Exploration

- Explain that you also want to get to know them and learn about them.
 - Ask the children to each say one thing they like doing as you go around the circle. (This helps them have an idea for the drawing activity.)
- Show the children the activity page . Read the words to them. (Hi my name is Scout. Hi my name is _____ I like _____.)
 - Explain that they will have a go at writing their name where it says, 'Hi my name is _____'. They might like to copy their



name tag or you may need to write it for them.

- In the big space, they are to draw what they like doing.
- Ask the children to go back to their seats once you have given them an activity page/ worksheet.
- Ask the children to stop and listen to you. Show BLM 10 and explain that they can colour it in but that they can cut it out at home.
- Ask the children to return to the floor, a table at a time, with their activity pages.
- Collect the nametags and workbooks.
- Sing your chosen song again if you have time.

Student Reflection

Explain that Christians believe that people can talk to God, even though we can't see Him.

- Ask the children to close their eyes to help them think about what is being said. Tell them to listen for the word 'Amen' which they can say after you have said it. It means that you agree with what is being said.

Dear God, thank you that we can learn about you in SRI. Thank you for all the different things we like doing. Amen
- Say goodbye to the class and that you look forward to seeing them all again next week.
- Thank the classroom teacher as you leave.

Notes