

Prayerfully study this material and seek to know what to share. How will understanding the life and mission of the Savior increase your faith in Him and bless those you watch over through visiting teaching? For more information, go to reliefsociety.lds.org.

The Divine Mission of Jesus Christ: Good Shepherd

This is part of a series of Visiting Teaching Messages featuring aspects of the mission of the Savior.

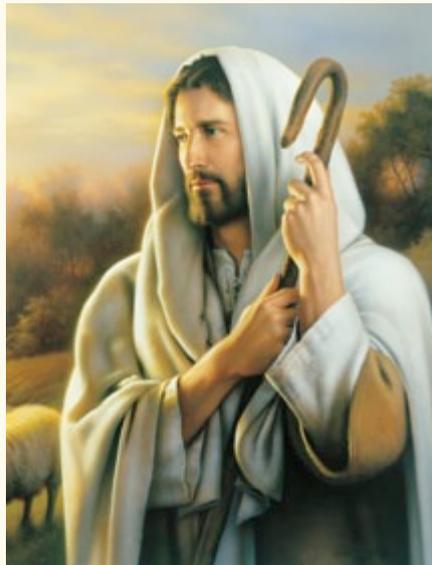
Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, taught:

“What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? . . .

“I say unto you, that . . . joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth” (Luke 15:4, 7).

As we come to understand that Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd, our desire increases to follow His example and serve those in need. Jesus said: “I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. . . . And I lay down my life for the sheep” (John 10:14–15). Because of Christ’s Atonement, none of us will ever be so lost that we cannot find our way home (see Luke 15).

President Thomas S. Monson said, “Ours is the responsibility to care for



the flock. . . . May we each step up to serve.”¹

From the Scriptures

Psalm 23; Isaiah 40:11; Mosiah 26:21

NOTES

1. Thomas S. Monson, “Heavenly Homes, Forever Families,” *Ensign*, June 2006, 102.
2. Elizabeth Ann Whitney, in *Daughters in My Kingdom: The History and Work of Relief Society* (2011), 128.
3. Thomas S. Monson, “What Have I Done for Someone Today?” *Ensign*, Nov. 2009, 86.
4. James E. Faust, “Dear Are the Sheep That Have Wandered,” *Ensign*, May 2003, 68.



Faith, Family, Relief

From Our History

Elizabeth Ann Whitney, who attended the first Relief Society meeting, said of her conversion in 1830: “As soon as I heard the Gospel as the Elders preached it, I knew it to be the voice of the Good Shepherd.”² Elizabeth followed the voice of the Good Shepherd and was baptized and confirmed.

We too can hear the voice of the Good Shepherd and share His teachings with others. President Monson said, “We are the Lord’s hands here upon the earth, with the mandate to serve and to lift His children.”³

Just as a shepherd seeks out a lost sheep, parents may seek after a child who has wandered. President James E. Faust (1920–2007), Second Counselor in the First Presidency, said: “To those brokenhearted parents who have been righteous, diligent, and prayerful in the teaching of their disobedient children, we say to you, the Good Shepherd is watching over them. God knows and understands your deep sorrow. There is hope.”⁴

What Can I Do?

1. How does knowing that the Savior is the Good Shepherd bring peace into our lives?
2. How can I support parents whose children have wandered from living the gospel?