


God Speaks to His Children

The ACN Child's Bible Project

GOD SPEAKS TO HIS CHILDREN

THE ACN CHILD'S BIBLE PROJECT

GOD SPEAKS TO HIS CHILDREN
Texts from the Bible

 Aid to the
Church in Need
ACN UNITED KINGDOM



ACNUK.ORG

Week 15 (Chapters 71-75)

 Aid to the
Church in Need
ACN UNITED KINGDOM

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We hope you and your families, teachers and classmates enjoy using these resources as much as we have enjoyed putting them together. They are especially for you, from all of us at ACN!

Welcome to this week's workbook for the ACN Child's Bible Project!

Before you get started on an activity, you'll need to watch the reading and reflection videos that go with it.

These activities are designed to help you understand a bit more about this week's chapters and to make sure that you have fun at the same time.

Are you ready? Let's see what you can do...or make...or draw...or sing...or play...or feel...or figure out!

Note to parents, teachers and carers:

There are 99 chapters in the ACN Child's Bible; videos of each one being read aloud along with a brief reflection will be made available each weekday from Easter Monday (13 April) 2020. While some older children may enjoy using these resources on their own, for maximum benefit and enjoyment we recommend working through each chapter together one day at a time.

All of the corresponding prayers and activities have been carefully designed to reinforce the content of each chapter and to help children engage with the stories in a fun and creative way. We've made every effort to keep things simple with clear instructions and materials that should be readily available in your home or classroom.

You can find the links to this week's chapters embedded in this workbook and on the ACN Schools social media platforms (listed on the back page of this workbook).



For more information about *God Speaks to his Children*, the ACN Child's Bible, or to contact the ACN Schools Teams, please see the back page of this booklet.

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Chapter 71:

In today's chapter Jesus tells us another parable, warning us about the risk of becoming too greedy. You can watch today's video here > <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TX00zW89ZM8>

The ancient Egyptians believed that when you died you took all your possessions with you to the afterlife. This could include statues, gold jewellery and even chariots, model boats, chairs and paintings! They wanted to have lots of material possessions as they thought they could take them with them to the afterlife.

Today's parable is about a farmer who didn't make the same mistake as the ancient Egyptians. In fact, he wasn't even thinking about what happens in eternity, but just concentrating on making his life comfortable in the here and now. He was so busy building up riches in this life that he forgot to think about the things that really matter. Jesus taught us that *what we have isn't important*. Who we are and whether we love God and other people is how we build up treasure in heaven which, unlike money and things we have on earth, *lasts forever*. The farmer thought he was secure and self-sufficient—this parable teaches us that we need to rely on God. The less self-centred we become, the more we allow God to live in us. The love we give to God and others in this life is eternal and is the only thing that lasts beyond death.

Today's activity:

1. Go to the PowerPoint presentation that goes alongside today's chapter. Click through the slides and spin the wheel!



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2. Decide whether the statement would go into the barn “Now I have taken good care of myself” (storing up treasure for himself) or become one of the hearts on the cross “Rich in the sight of God” (storing up treasure in heaven), and discuss why.

3. We store up treasure in heaven by giving to others and to God:

- Our time (through good works and prayer)
- Our possessions (sharing with the poor and not being greedy)
- Our will (putting other people first and making God the centre of our lives)

Put the statements on the wheel into each of these categories.

4. Think of other examples and write them on a pieces of paper or make your own spinning wheel at: <https://tekhnologic.wordpress.com/2018/04/30/the-spinning-wheel-2018/>



Prayer for today: Lord, we pray for all those in the world who will go without food and essential items today. Help us to be aware of those in the world who need help.

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Chapter 72:

In today's chapter Jesus lets us know that we will never be left behind. You can watch today's video here > <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xDljrggjwW8>

In the parable, we learn that the shepherd went looking for the lost sheep. This means that he noticed. He saw that one had gone missing. He would have known which sheep it was, and he would have known its name. He was anxious to get his beloved sheep back, and the same way God our Father seeks us, he went to find him.



GOD KNOWS US BY NAME.

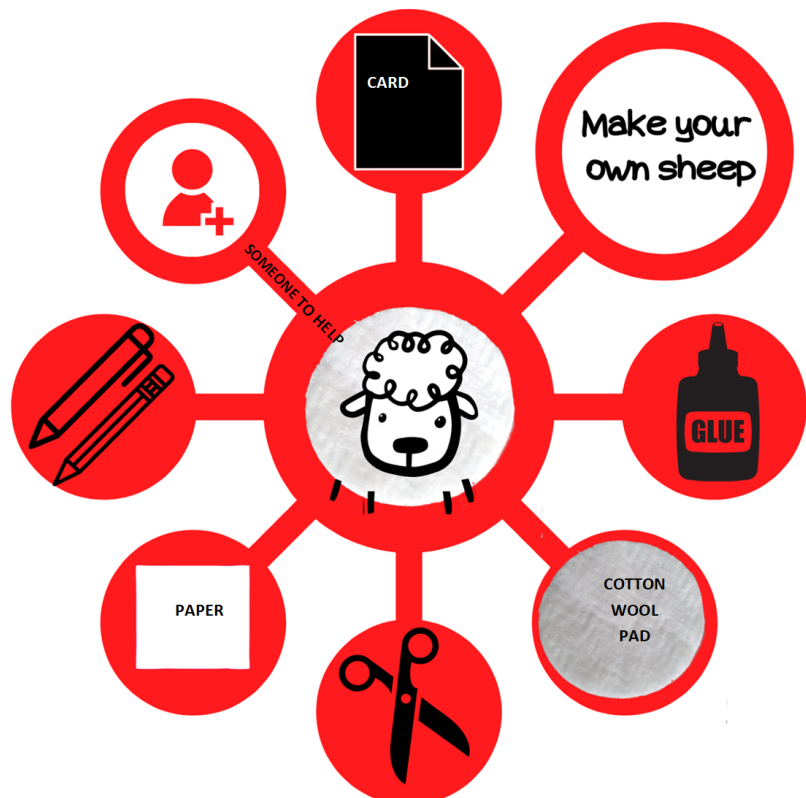
**IF YOU HAD A SHEEP,
WHAT WOULD YOU CALL IT?**

Imagine heaven rejoicing when we confess our sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Can we even fully grasp the greatness of what Jesus teaches us in this parable? The whole of heaven...that means God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), Our Lady, all the saints, all the angels and all our loved ones who have died and are in heaven. All of this rejoicing because you or I turn away from sin!

Today's activity:

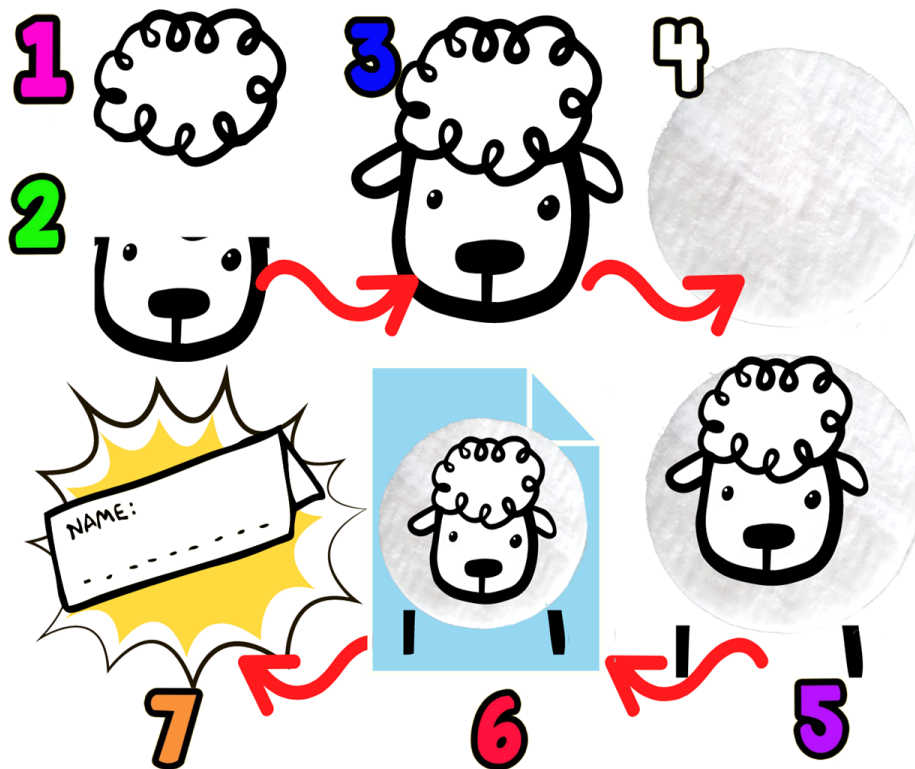
Make your own sheep!

You will need the items listed in the picture opposite.



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1. Draw a cloud-like shape on your piece of paper. Use your pencil and go over it with your marker. Cut out and set aside.
2. Copy the face of the sheep and cut as above.
3. Now draw and cut out the ears.
4. Take your cotton wool pad and line up the shapes to look like a sheep.
5. Stick the different parts you have just drawn and cut out onto a cotton wool pad. (If you don't have a cotton wool pad you could use layers of toilet roll.)
6. Stick the sheep onto a piece of card.
7. Decide what to call your sheep and write his or her name on the card.
8. Spend a day looking after your sheep.
9. Put it by your bed as you go to sleep.
10. Ask your helper (mum, dad, carer, brother or sister), to hide your sheep before you get up the next day.



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11. Spend time looking for your lost sheep. As you do, imagine the shepherd looking for his lost sheep and God looking for us to come back to him when we sin.

12. When you find your sheep, find a way to celebrate now that he/she has been found!



Prayer for today: Lord, today we pray for all those who feel like outsiders. Give us the courage to be open and welcoming to all people—especially those who feel lonely.

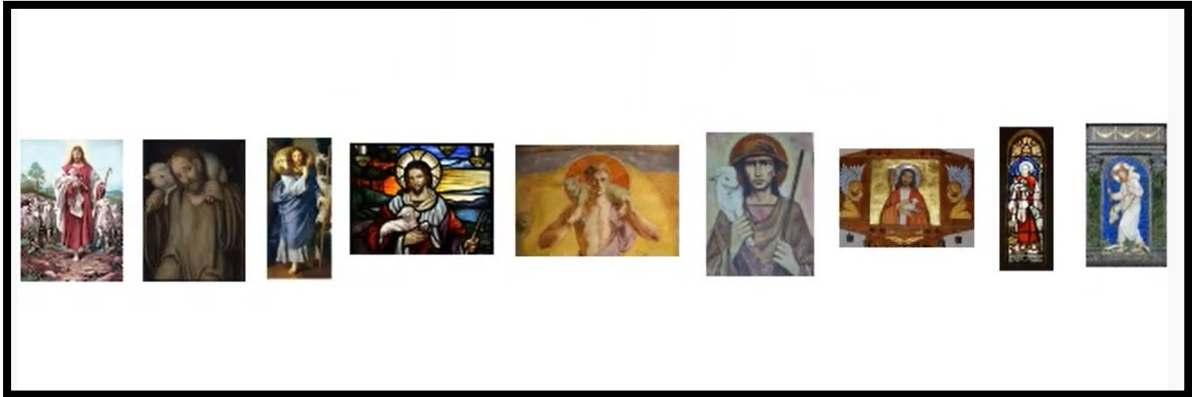
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Chapter 73:

In today's chapter, Jesus continues to share his wisdom with us. He reassures us that he will always be there to protect us, and compares himself to a shepherd. You can watch today's video here > https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WsQ4g5h9_ZI



The idea of Jesus being the Good Shepherd is something which has inspired many artists. For today's activity, we want you to imagine you are in an art gallery!

Watch the following video > <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mbFC55EEvhM&feature=youtu.be>

Pause the video at any point if you want to look at any of the images for a bit longer.

Discuss the following after you have watched the video:

1. What are the artists trying to show?
2. Which image do you like most? Say why.
3. Which image do you like least? Say why.
4. Are there any similarities between the pictures?



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Prayer for today: Thank you Jesus for always being there for us and ready to protect and care for us.

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Chapter 74:

In today's chapter Jesus tells us a parable about the power of forgiveness—an amazing story about a father and his two sons. You can watch today's video here > https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fx0BUH8vx1U&list=PLNkX7y32cCjYZwIKdcx2_Nc1Mn3TqprfF&index=79&t=0s and you can hear today's reflection here > <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5qvzwZFQWoI>

For today's activity, we would like to invite you to put together a role play of this story!

- Look at the chart and plan your role play.
- Work out how you will show the differences between the characters using the information about each one to help you.
- Use the script provided on the next page or devise your own script to tell the story.
- You may want to 'freeze frame' some of the scenes and explain to the audience what the meaning is for us.

CHARACTERS	EMOTIONS/ FEELINGS/ CHARACTERISTICS	PROPS/SYMBOLS/PLACES	STAGE DIRECTIONS
FATHER (F)	Loving Merciful Doesn't hold grudges Think about the strength of the Father's love. He respects his son's wishes, and does everything he can to help him. Think about the forgiveness he shows and how everything he does is for his sons.	Sandals, robe, ring. In other versions of this bible passage, when the son comes home his Father puts sandals on his feet (this shows that he wasn't a servant, as servants didn't wear sandals), a rope around him (to show he was royalty) and a ring (to show that he had authority as part of the family). The feast is like Easter (not a resurrection, but a return from the dead).	Always waiting, watching hoping. Loving and forgiving. Notice that the father doesn't change – he is always facing the son, but respecting the son's decision. Notice too that the Father comes out to meet both sons. He goes to them.
YOUNGER SON (YS)	Think about the different emotions and feelings the son experiences from leaving home to coming back. Try to show these in your performance. Why is it that the things he thinks will make him happy don't?	Pigs (considered unclean by Jews) – this would bring shame. Distant land – what might this mean?	Show him turning and walking away and turning back (to repent means to turn back).
OLDER SON (OS)	Think about how he feels. Why doesn't he want his Father to forgive his brother? Does he understand his Father's love? Where is he positioned throughout the parable? Do we see him in the Father's house at all?	Notice that he doesn't call his brother 'my brother' but refers to him as 'your son'.	On the outside. Notice that he didn't want a celebration with his Father, but with his 'friends'.

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A Father and His Sons— SCRIPT

YS: Father, I would like my share of the inheritance. I want to go away, I want to look after myself now and do what I want.

F: I will give you your share, half of everything I own.

OS: Father, why are you letting him have this now? It's as if he is wishing you dead – like you are more use to him dead than alive.

YS: (Walking away). Now I am free! I don't have to do what my Father wants any more. I can enjoy my life and please myself. That's what life is about.

F: (Standing looking). I hope my son is safe. I hope he comes back one day.

YS: (Having a good time). This is great! I can drink, spend all my money on my new friends, have lots of girlfriends, go to parties, get up when I want, go to bed when I like and buy whatever takes my fancy.

F: I hope my son is safe. I hope he comes back one day. But now it is as if he is dead. He is so far away from me, from the family and from my protection. I will never give up hope and I will always love him.

OS: But Father, he is off spending all your money and bringing shame on this house. How can you still love him?

F: He is my son and I love you both more than you can imagine.

YS: (Talking to the farmer) Please let me work on your farm. I am starving now because I have no money left. I used to be rich but I have spent it all and I have nothing to show for it. All my so-called friends have left me - they only wanted my money. I am starving. Please!

OS: (In field working and thinking out loud). I work so hard. Day in, day out. I always do what's asked of me. I keep the rules. I would never do what my Father's younger son did. He is no brother of mine.



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F: (Standing looking). I hope my son is safe. I hope he comes back one day.

YS: (Feeding pigs). I can't even eat your food. I never imagined this is what would happen – that I, a Jew, would have to feed pigs! I am the lowest of the low. I have betrayed everyone who cared about me. The shame I have brought to my family - I never realised how much I was loved in my Father's house...

(PAUSE to show the younger son coming to his senses.)

YS: (Thinking out loud) My Father treats his servants better than this. I'm going to die. I will go back to my Father. I will ask him to employ me. Oh, I'm so nervous – what if he turns me away.

(YS turns and starts walking back.)

(F sees YS and runs out to meet him. Full of joy.)

YS: Father, I have sinned against God and against you. So I no longer deserve to be called your son. Can I at least be a servant?

F: Let's have a feast! You will not be a servant – you are my son.

OS: (To servant) What's happening here? I didn't know we were having a party today. (Show his expression when he realises what has happened).

OS: I'm not going in there! After everything he has done—he has a party thrown in his honour!

(F comes out to OS.)

OS: I have worked for you all these years and you never gave me even a kid to celebrate with my friends. And now.... He's back... everyone is rejoicing.

F: You are my son. You are with me always and all I have is yours. But today we must celebrate. Your brother was dead and has come to life. He was lost and now he has returned home.

THE END



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Prayer for today: Thank you, Jesus, for our families and those who care for us. We pray that we never take for granted the people who love us. We pray for those who may not see how lucky they are—grant them contentment and peace.

Think about the words in this parable and how things are swapped around for Lazarus and the rich man. Firstly Lazarus is begging and then the rich man is begging Abraham. The rich man wouldn't listen to Lazarus' pleas in life and after death his own pleas were not being heard. Lazarus was in agony at the start—the rich man is in agony in the end.



There is an example on the next page.



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Lazarus sat by the rich man's gate



All day and night no food he ate



Zero compassion and then he died



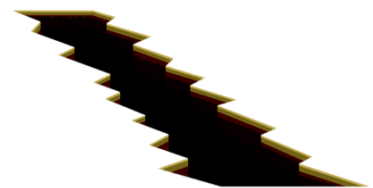
An angel took him to Abraham's side



Reaching death, the rich man to hell did slide



Undo my thirst, Lazarus, please! (he cried)



So great was the gap though from heaven to there
...no drink could be given; there was no way to share.

Now have a try at writing your own poem!

Prayer for today: Lord, teach us to be generous and always willing to share what we have with others. Sometimes this can be difficult—remind us that this is what you are asking of us each day.

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The ACN Child's Bible project introduces children in the UK to the little red book that has played such an important part in the lives of so many children around the world.



God Speaks to his Children, the ACN Child's Bible, is sometimes the only book a child will ever own. It has been used since its release in 1979 to teach children about their Christian faith and to provide an invaluable literacy tool as well!. To date, over 51 million copies in 190 languages have gone out around the world. The edition in Spanish is the most popular (around 14 million copies printed), with Portuguese not far behind (10.3 million). English (2.5 million), French (1.2 million) and Swahili (950,000) are the next most popular languages.

From the very beginning, ACN has distributed *God Speaks to his Children* to struggling Christian communities free of charge. For every copy sold in the UK, 3 more copies will be sent out to children elsewhere for free.

If you'd like to purchase one or more copies of the ACN Child's Bible for use at home, in church or at school (and help to send out many more copies to children elsewhere who will receive them because of your kindness), you can visit our website (www.acnuk.org/shop/) or ring our Trading order line (0345 241 6068). Discounts may be available on larger orders for parishes or schools; please contact our Schools Team to find out more.

We hope you enjoy using these resources as much as we've enjoyed assembling them for you! We'd like to thank all those who offered their time and skills to read chapters, produce reflections, write prayers and assemble activities. We value your feedback, so please let us know how you've used these resources by posting on social media with the hashtag #ACNAtHome. Thank you!

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