

# Dear parents,

*Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father!* I am excited to share this week's box with all of you, and I hope you enjoy spending time with your children creating the craft and diving into the lessons that accompany it. We learn in the Bible that Jesus is both the Lamb of God, and also our Good Shepherd!

Of course, many children are familiar with being referred to as "Jesus' little lambs" and may already even be familiar with the story of the Good Shepherd, but I wanted to make a point of including the explanation of Jesus being the Lamb of God given the time of the church year that we are presently in. Lambs are a common symbol associated with Easter, even in the secular world; you'll often see them pictured among the cute fluffy bunnies and little chicks. As you see them throughout the season, perhaps on decorations or greeting cards, remind your children that the lamb really is the central figure of the Easter story - "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!"

It is also important to acknowledge that because of Jesus being the sacrificial Lamb of God on Good Friday, we are washed clean by His blood and made "white as snow" - and that is the true joy we celebrate on Easter. Because of His final sacrifice, no more little lambs need to die... including you and me! This may be a tricky thing for children to understand (how can blood make something clean?) but the simple answer is that God does amazing, seemingly unbelievable things all the time. His wonderful love for us is beyond anything we can understand or comprehend, but it's something to marvel at and rejoice in nonetheless.

Some additional activities you can participate in as a family to help you continue to reflect on this "Sheep" theme throughout the days leading up to Holy Week:

- Learn and sing these songs (a quick YouTube or Spotify search will pull them up for you)
  - "I am Jesus' Little Lamb"
  - "I Just Wanna Be a Sheep"
  - "The Lamb" (you'll recognize this as part of our Divine Service liturgy)
- For older children, help them to do some research on the history and meaning of Passover (Exodus 12, or find a simple translation/summary of the narrative). What happened? Why did this become a yearly feast celebrated by God's people afterwards? What is a "paschal lamb"? What does all of this have to do with Easter?
- Look for other passages in the Bible that talk about sheep (a few to get you started: Psalm 23, Isaiah 40:11, Luke 15:3-7... use a concordance or the Internet to find more!)
- Play in the snow (if it comes again) and talk about how Jesus' love washes us perfectly clean and makes us "white as snow" like the fleece of an innocent little lamb.

I am praying for you each, as always. God loves you - and so do I!

Your sister in Christ,

# SHEEP

## CrossBox Content Guide

- **Parent Letter/Content Guide**
  - This is what you're reading right now!
- **Lamb Paper Plate Craft**
  - Your main project for this box! See separate sheet for instructions and contact Dana if you have any questions about how to do this.
- **The Good Shepherd & the Lamb of God Story Lessons**
  - Read these short stories while you make your paper plate craft to learn about why we call Jesus the Lamb of God, and why we call ourselves His little lambs.
- **Pretzels & Marshmallows Craft/Snack**
  - See if you can figure out how to turn these yummy treats into a little flock of sheep! Send pictures of your best attempt to Dana to be featured on our Facebook page.
    - *Safe food handling measures were taken while packaging these snack baggies (gloves, masks, etc.), but if you're not comfortable having your children eat them, use the glue to make a permanent craft to display by your plate Lamb!*
- **Memory Verse Challenge Card**
  - Collect a new Verse card in every CrossBox. How is your memory work going on the last three? See if you can memorize this one before your next box arrives!
- **Good Shepherd Activity Sheet & Rhyme**
  - Color in the picture of Jesus with His little lambs and sing the rhyme together!
- **"GET EGGED" Announcement Flyer**
  - Check out this fun opportunity for a safe, at-home Easter Egg Hunt brought to you by the Boards of Education, Evangelism, and Missions!
- **Upcoming Events/Announcements**
  - See what's on the calendar this month for Holy Cross.
- **Comment Card**
  - Your feedback/constructive criticisms/suggestions will help us fine-tune our CrossBox content to make it as effective and exciting as possible for your family!

***Need another copy of a specific resource?***

*Go to [hcross.com/crossbox](http://hcross.com/crossbox) & click on the "Sheep" section to request it/print one at home!*

**Watch the LIVE Unboxing Video at 4:30pm on Wednesday\* to chat with Dana and get a personal shout-out, answer riddles or play games, and learn more about your box contents!**

*\* Can't catch the live feed? No worries! The videos will be posted afterwards to watch whenever you are able.*



Scan the code to the left, or visit [hcross.com/crossbox](http://hcross.com/crossbox) and click on the "Unboxing Videos" links.