



1. As pupils enter

Play your music and display **the image of the shepherd** or your props.

2. Introduction

Ask the children what a shepherd is. (Someone who looks after sheep). What is the crook for? (The crook is to put round a sheep's neck to guide them to safety if they go the wrong way). Explain that in the story the children are about to watch there are 100 sheep. Ask them to count to 10 together, slowly. The shepherd in the story has 10 lots of 10! That's a lot of sheep!

Explain that the shepherd in the story has to 'persevere' and gather some suggestions for what 'perseverance' means. Then play the video.

3. Play the video

The duration is 3' 31" and the final words are: 'See you again soon! Bye!' You can play the video straight through or you can choose to pause at 1' 29" when the shepherd says 'I think I'll go to bed' and ask the children for their predictions.

4. After the video - Time to talk

Lead a discussion about perseverance by asking:

- How do you think the shepherd felt when he realised that one of his sheep was missing?
- What choice did he have to make then?
- Have you ever lost something precious to you? How did it make you feel?
- Would you give up looking if you lost something important?

Explain the following the Themes overview: *The story is a parable that Jesus told. A parable is a simple story with a moral or message that Christians believe can show how they should live their lives. Christians believe that the shepherd represents God and that the sheep are God's people, and that God will always look after the people - even when one goes astray, like the sheep in the story. God cares for each and every person.*

5. Opportunity to sing

An opportunity to sing your chosen song.

Video page



6. Opportunity to reflect

Close your eyes for a moment...

Think about a time when you felt you might give up on something...

Think about the story of the shepherd and what happened when he persevered...

Now picture yourself succeeding at whatever it was you were finding challenging...

How you feel now..?

Next time you are tempted to give up, remember that feeling so that it encourages you to persevere.

7. Opportunity for prayer

Begin with your usual form of address ('Dear God', 'Let us pray', etc) and:

Thank you for the story of 'The Lost Sheep' teaching us the value of perseverance.

When we feel something is too tricky, help us to keep on trying.

When our success feels far away, teach us to never give up.

When we succeed, help us to know that you are joyful too!

Amen.