

# The Good Shepherd (Middle and Upper Elementary)

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**May 3, 2020 – Fourth Sunday of Easter**

## Overview

This week's Gospel passage focuses on Jesus as the Good Shepherd who protects and guides His sheep to abundant life. In this lesson, students will reflect upon what the Gospel is teaching them using the ancient practice of *Lectio Divina*.

## Directions

- A. For this lesson, you may either use the instructions below to lead your students in prayer via video conference, or have parents guide their students in prayer at home. Give students an opportunity to quiet down and focus themselves. Have them close their eyes and remove distractions from their mind as best they can.
- B. Say a short prayer asking the Holy Spirit to guide this time of prayer and meditation. For example: *Come Holy Spirit, open our minds and our hearts to what Our Lord wants to say to us today. Give us ears to listen and help us to be open to receiving whatever Christ has for us. Help us to remove any distractions and allow us to come to know our Lord more deeply during this time of prayer.*
- C. Prepare to read the Gospel passage aloud once slowly. Tell the students to simply listen to the words this first time through, and especially for any word or phrase that jumps out at them. Ask them to write down that word or phrase after you finish reading. Give them 2-3 minutes of silence after you have completed reading it.
- D. Prepare to read the passage a second time. Before you begin reading ask the students to really imagine the scene as best they can. Tell them to engage all their senses. For example:
  - *What does it look like?*
  - *What colors do they see?*
  - *What are people wearing?*
  - *What does the ground look and feel like?*