Where Did We See You, Jesus?

Based on Matthew 25:31–46

Preparation

Write the group responses on newsprint and have the children practice saying them. As you read the script below, hold up one finger to signal the children to say Response 1 and two fingers to signal Response 2.

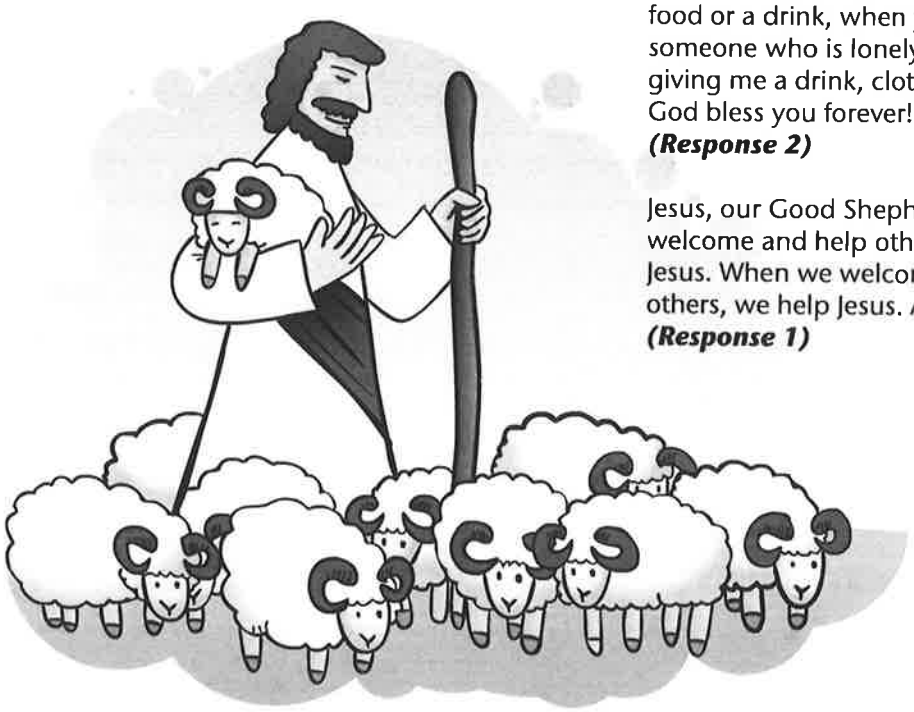
Response 1: Follow Jesus, our Good Shepherd.
Response 2: Jesus teaches: Welcome others. Help others.

Script

One day Jesus said, "When I come again to earth, I will call together all the people of the world. I am your Good Shepherd and I will gather up my sheep. People who follow my teachings and share God's love with the world are my sheep. (*Ask child to hold up Color Pack 26.*) Here is what will happen:
(Response 1)

On that day, the Good Shepherd will say: "I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothing. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me. God bless you for doing all these things!"
(Response 2)

But the people who are Jesus' sheep will be confused. They will ask the Good Shepherd: "When did we see that you were hungry and give you food, or thirsty and give you something to drink? And when did we welcome you like a stranger? When did we see that you were naked and gave you clothing? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?"
(Response 2)



The Good Shepherd will answer: "Listen! When you give someone food or a drink, when you provide clothing, or when you visit someone who is lonely, at the very same time you are feeding me, giving me a drink, clothing me, and visiting me. God bless you! God bless you forever!"
(Response 2)

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, teaches that when we do anything to welcome and help other people, we are doing these things for Jesus. When we welcome others, we welcome Jesus. When we help others, we help Jesus. And we are blessed when we do these things.
(Response 1)

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