



BELOVED ME, BELOVED WE
GODLY PLAY
EQUITY AUDIT TOOLKIT

PARABLE OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD

VOLUME 3

COMPLETE GUIDE TO GODLY PLAY
REVISED AND EXPANDED

Parable of the Good Shepherd Tool-kit

Lesson 9, Volume 3, *The Complete Guide to Godly Play*, Revised and Expanded

The Material

The Good Shepherd & Ordinary Shepherd

The Good Shepherd and Ordinary Shepherd figures do not match the style of the figures in the other parables. We recommend making them look less “stylized” and perhaps more “biblical.”

These **two figures should also have matching skin tones** to avoid suggesting that one is better or worse than the other due to skin tone. In addition, the original has the Good Shepherd carrying a white sheep on his back. **We recommend changing this to a darker sheep or multi-colored ones like “Jacob sheep.”**

Godly Play Resources provides these new figures mounted on wood or as a digital download. The downloads are free. You can print out the figures and laminate them or mount them on something like foam core. Print them out on 32-pound, 8.5 x 11 paper. Regular copy paper is not recommended.

Note: For those who cannot purchase replacement figures or digital downloads, we recommend using colored pencils to make the skin tones of the original version match and to change the color of the sheep that the Good Shepherd carries.

The Sheep

In the original sets, the sheep were all white. This could imply that only white sheep were allowed in the sheepfold or are the only ones who know the Good Shepherd.

Godly Play Resources now provides more realistic sheep (modeled after “Jacob Sheep”), mounted on wood or as a digital download. The digital downloads are free. You can print out the sheep and laminate



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them or mount them on something like foam core. Print them out on 32-pound, 8.5 x 11 paper. Regular copy paper is not recommended.

Note: For those who cannot purchase replacement sheep or digital downloads, please consider using colored pencils to change the colors of the sheep to include different shades of brown.

The Dark and Dangerous Places

The original material used black felt for the “dark and dangerous places.” This could imply that black people (or darker-skinned people) are dangerous. To avoid this implication, we recommend **using a charcoal-gray felt for dangerous places.**

Godly Play provides the gray “rocks,” but these are easily replaced by going to your local craft store and purchasing some gray felt (or finding some online).

Special note: If you want to update your set with the new figures for the Good Shepherd & Ordinary Shepherd, the new sheep, and gray rocks, you will find the replacement wooden figures here and the digital downloads here: <https://store.godlyplayfoundation.org/products/gp330>

