**INSERT THE FOLLOWING at the “Click Here” notification on page 2 of “It’s about Time” blog #6 – Part V**

**Sample Script for “The Good Shepherd”**

**Cast:**

1. **Pastor or other message leader**;
2. **An older teenage volunteer**, or an 6th – 8th grader who is a good reader who likes doing drama;
3. **A parent volunteer** who is an enthusiastic reader;

**Crew:**

**Two children volunteers** (**Blanket Holders**) who are tall enough to hold up the blanket that serves as the puppet theater.

**Props:**

1. **A sheep puppet. It can be hand made from a sock, purchased from a toy store or from Folkmanis Puppets or other online puppet manufacturer. Google: Folkmanis Sheep Puppets or click on the following (They are expensive, but really good):** <https://www.google.com/search?q=folkmanis+puppets+sheep+puppets&rlz=1C1GCEU_enUS819US819&ei=w3mNYbHfA4fRtAb8w7H4Aw&oq=folkmanis+puppets+sheep+puppets&gs_lcp=Cgdnd3Mtd2l6EAMyBwgAEEcQsAMyBwgAEEcQsAMyBwgAEEcQsAMyBwgAEEcQsAMyBwgAEEcQsAMyBwgAEEcQsAMyBwgAEEcQsAMyBwgAEEcQsANKBAhBGABQAFgAYOYIaAFwAngAgAEAiAEAkgEAmAEAyAEIwAEB&sclient=gws-wiz&ved=0ahUKEwjxzML5j5H0AhWHKM0KHfxhDD8Q4dUDCA8&uact=5>

**Or, for a less expensive option, watch the “Shawn the Sheep” DYI puppet making video at:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1iEbzoKce\_w**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1iEbzoKce_w) **(Its about 13 minutes long.) When you’ve finished the DYI puppet you’ll have a great sheep to use whenever a sheep/shepherd story needs telling.**

**Easy to make with cotton balls, cardboard, felt paper and a sponge. Great project for kids or adults and inexpensive as well.**

**There are many of these puppet videos available online. Just Google “Making a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Sock (or hand) Puppet” and you’ll get plenty of ideas. For example: Making a donkey Sock Puppet will bring you to:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4zv03ezrbLQ**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4zv03ezrbLQ) **A very polite English lady will explain everything in about 11 minutes. I loved watching and listening to her and I’m so excited about them I’m going to make both the sheep and donkey puppets as soon as I’ve finished writing this blog! Really, I am!**

1. **One blanket**. **A dark blue or black blanket works best.** Avoid blankets with fancy designs that distract the listeners and, **no red blankets please!**
2. **Microphones** for each of the cast with mic stands if necessary.
3. **Three music stands** – one for each of the cast members on which to place their scripts.

**Notes:**

1. The script should be shared with the cast well ahead of time for best results and ease of performance. If not, it will still be okay.
2. Stage directions in the script are given in *italics.*
3. An announcement regarding the children’s message should be made in the bulletin with directions about how the *whole family* is invited to come forward for the message.
4. Ushers and cast members and crew can assist in setting up the puppet theater and helping everyone to their places in the front of the sanctuary.

**THE GOOD SHEPHERD SCRIPT**

By Jeffrey E. Burkart

*Performance time: Approximately 5 to 6 minutes with closing hymn.*

**Pastor:**

**Will all children and their parents please come forward for today’s message.**

*Introductory music is optional. Music suggestion: “I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb” (LSB 740) or other appropriate “Sheep/Shepherd” hymn is played with gusto on either piano or organ. When everyone is in their respective places music fades.*

*All lines should be spoken enthusiastically and immediately after each other so there are no pauses between them.*

**Parent:**

**Welcome ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls to this edition of “Interviews with Famous Biblical Animals.” My name is (insert your name here i.e. Roberta or Robert Smith)…**

**Teenager:**

**And I’m your co-host,** *Insert your name here i.e., Jan or Jim Doe…*

**Parent:**

**And we are happy you are with us today.**

**Teenager:**

**As you may recall, last week we interviewed Balaam’s Donkey,**

**Parent:**

**And next week we will be talking to the Big Fish from the story of Jonah.**

**Teenager:**

**But today we have such a well know personality that he almost needs no introduction.**

**Parent:**

**So without further ado, let’s give a warm welcome to the Sheep from Psalm 23!***Applause! Sheep appears from behind the blanket and bows, nodding his head in all directions for a few moments and then speaks.*

**Sheep:**

**Thank you! Thank you! It’s so good to be here.**

**Teenager:**

**Great to have you with us Mr. Sheep. Tell us, what was the best part of being in the Shepherd’s flock.**

**Sheep:**

**Oh, that’s easy! Whenever the Good Shepherd would lead us, I knew that green pastures were soon to appear.**

**Parent:**

**It sounds like he really knew his way around.**

**Sheep:**

**Oh, that’s for sure. I’ll tell you a little secret. We sheep are very afraid of running water.**

**Teenager:**

**Really!?**

**Sheep:**

**My yes! When there’s water that’s running fast, we get dizzy. We’re, well, you know, somewhat sheepish around running water. No matter where he’d lead us, we’d always drink from calm and refreshing waters.**

**Parent:**

**That’s fascinating!**

**Sheep:  
Not only that, but whenever he was with us he’d restore our souls!**

**Teenager:**

**What exactly is a soul?**

**Sheep:**

**You don’t know what your soul is?**

**Parent:**

**I’m a bit shaky on the concept. Could you explain?**

**Sheep:**

**Some people think that the soul is some kind of ghost that lives in you. That’s nonsense.**

**Your soul is every part of you, it’s your innermost being, your mind, your heart, your strength,**

**your emotions, your breath! Your very life itself.**

**Parent:**

**That sounds complicated.**

**Sheep:  
It is! In the Hebrew language the word for soul is “Nephesh” (neh-fesh) and you find it**

**over 700 times in the Old Testament. It’s a very difficult word to understand.**

**Teenager:**

**In Psalm 103:1 it says, “Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name!**

**Sheep:  
That’s right! The soul is everything about you. And in Deuteronomy 6:5 is says,**

**“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.”**

**Every part of your being – your soul - is meant to praise God.**

**Parent:  
And the Good Shepherd restored your soul when you were feeling down, I take it?**

**Sheep:  
Exactly! Even when times were terrible, the Good Shepherd led us though those**

**valleys of the shadow of death.**

**Teenager:**

**Were you terribly afraid at times?**

**Sheep:**

**Of course! But we walked with the Good Shepherd and were comforted by his presence.**

**We knew we had nothing to fear as long as he was near to protect us from our enemies.**

**Parent:  
You had enemies?**

**Sheep:**

**Have you ever heard of the Big Bad Wolf?  
  
Parent:**

**Oh, I see what you mean!**

**Teenager:  
But in spite of all the fear and evils that surrounded you, you seem to have a very positive outlook.**

**Sheep:**

**I feel very blessed. Because the Good Shepherd is with me I know that**

**goodness and mercy will follow me every day of my life.**

**Parent:**

**Well, I see that we are nearing the end of our time today.**

**Do you have any closing thoughts you could leave with us, Mr. Sheep.**

**Sheep:  
Yes, thank you. Do you all know who the Good Shepherd really is?**

**He’s our Lord Jesus who once called himself the Good Shepherd. And all of you, children, are his sheep.**

**You’ll hear his voice in Bible passages and stories from the scriptures. You’ll hear his voice when your parents tell you about their faith in him. He called you his own dear sheep when you were baptized! You can trust and believe in him because he laid down his life for his sheep – and *you* are his sheep.**

**God bless you all, and thank you for inviting me.**

**Teenager:**

**Thank YOU, Mr. Sheep.** *(Applause!)*

**And now, as is our custom, let’s close with hymn that is appropriate for this occasion. Let’s all sing “I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb.” You’ll find it on page #740 of you’re the hymnal book and projected on our screens.**

*(If another hymnal us used, announce the appropriate page number.)*

**All sing:**

*Only a brief musical introduction (last 4 measures) is needed for the hymn.Cast, crew and actors sing (off microphones) until the hymn is ended. When the hymn ends the puppet stage is struck and microphones are taken away by the cast.*

**“I am Jesus’ Little Lamb” – *LSB* #740**

**I am Jesus’ little lamb,  
Ever glad at heart I am;  
For my Shepherd gently guides me,  
Knows my need, and well provides me,  
Loves me every day the same,  
Even calls me by my name**

**Day by day, at home, away,  
Jesus is my staff and stay.  
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me,  
Into pleasant pastures leads me;  
When I thirst, He bids me go  
Where the quiet waters flow.**

**Who so happy as I am,  
Even now the Shepherd’s lamb?  
And when my short life is ended,  
By His angel host attended,  
He shall fold me to His breast,  
There within his arms to rest.**

*All return to their seats when the song is finished as the service continues.*

**Also see:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G0aK14YrQtU**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G0aK14YrQtU) **for a video choral setting of “I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb” from *My First Hymnal* from CPH.**

**Generic Sanctuary Diagram**

**Altar**

**Sheep puppeteer with microphone sits behind the blanket here.**

**Teenage actor with microphone stands here**

**behind blanket.**

**Adult actor with microphone stands here**

**behind blanket.**

**Blanket Holder**

**Blanket Holder**

**Blanket Puppet Stage**

g

**Adults and Children are seated in front of puppet stage or in**

**the front pews if they are open.**

Pews Pews

**Three PVC Couplers: one straight (in**

**middle); two 900**

**couplers on the ends.**

The blanket(s), or large piece(s) of opaque blue cloth, can be draped over an 8’ clothing pole or PVC pipes. A simple set of five 2” or 2.5” PVC pipes, with a center support so the cloth will not sag in the middle, is easy to make and take it apart for future use when the play is finished. This kind of puppet theater makes it easy for the blanket holders to set up and support the blanket during the play, and makes for quick take down as well.

Go online to see more complex puppet theater construction ideas.

**Three, 4’ to 5’ PVC legs.**

**Use two 4’ PVC spans.**