

# Prayers for the Easter Season

**Scripture Focus:** John 10:11–16 (The Good Shepherd)

## Opening Prayer

**Leader:** Let us begin our prayer with the Sign of the Cross.

**All:** In the name of the Father . . .

**Leader:** Jesus is our Good Shepherd, who died and rose for us. He knows his sheep, and we know him. He calls us by name.

**Reader:** A reading from the Gospel according to John.

*Reader then reads the Scripture passage above from Breakthrough! The Bible for Young Catholics.*

**Leader:** We want to listen to Jesus and follow him. Let us respond in prayer,

“We will listen and follow. Alleluia!”

**All:** We will listen and follow. Alleluia!

**Leader:** When we face choices to do good or to do wrong, help us, Good Shepherd, and call us by name.

**All:** We will listen and follow. Alleluia!

**Leader:** When we feel alone and are looking for a friend, help us, Good Shepherd, and call us by name.

**All:** We will listen and follow. Alleluia!

**Leader:** When we are concerned for others who are sick or in need, help us, Good Shepherd, and call us by name.

**All:** We will listen and follow. Alleluia!

## Closing Prayer

**Leader:** Today we learned that Jesus is the Good Shepherd who cares for us, his sheep. Let us pray to him, who died and rose for us:

**All:** Good Shepherd, you know us and love us.

Help us to stay close to you always.

Help us to listen to your voice and follow wherever you lead us.

We ask this in your name, Good Shepherd. Amen.



# Ritual Guide

## Opening Prayer

### Preparation

Choose a reader to read the passage from the Gospel of John.

*Optional:* Choose an appropriate song to begin and end the prayer.

### Gather

Gather the middle schoolers in the Bible corner. Distribute the prayer handouts. Briefly rehearse the prayer response. Remind the group that *Alleluia* means “Praise God!” and is a special Easter acclamation of praise.

### Pray

Begin with the Sign of the Cross as indicated. Introduce the reading with the words given, or in your own words. Collect the handouts and set them aside for the closing prayer.

(An activity for the Easter Season can be found in chapter 10 of the *Breakthrough! Leader Guide*.)

## Closing Prayer

### Gather

Gather the middle schoolers in the Bible corner. Distribute the handouts. Explain that this closing prayer asks Jesus, our Good Shepherd, to take care of us and to help us follow him.

### Pray

Lead the group in prayer. Ask the group to pray the prayer with you.

*Optional:* End with the song you chose for the opening prayer.

