**The Christian Value of Hope**

**EYFS – Reflection 1**

**You will need a small group of children and another adult to play the shepherd.**

This reflection helps the children to understand that Jesus was a bit like a shepherd. He looks after us like a shepherd looks after his sheep. The idea is for the children to learn that Jesus is someone who will always look after us and keep us safe.

Tell the children that you are going to tell them a story, but you need them to be sheep. Show them the picture of the shepherd (below) and explain that shepherds are people who look after sheep.

Practise with children what noise sheep make. Teach the children to say ‘baa, baa, baa’ in unison. Get the children to wiggle their tails like sheep. Get them to practise wiggling their tails and saying baa, baa, baa. Now teach them to say it in different ways – scared, happy, cross.

Tell the children that you are now ready to tell the story about the little flock of sheep. Read as below:

Once upon a time there was a flock of sheep. Let’s wiggle out tails and sing.

Sing ‘We are all little sheep’ to the tune of ‘London’s Burning’ ending in baa, baa, baa.

Oh no, what’s over there?! It’s a wolf! (point and be scared) Ask the ‘sheep’ how they are feeling, can the sing the song in scared voices?

Oh, it’s okay, our shepherd is with us.

Let’s pretend that our hand is our shepherd’s hand. (Get the children to hold up one hand and use it to stroke their other arm like a shepherd stroking a sheep).

How are you feeling sheep?

Oh dear, the wolf is getting closer! Let’s sing in our scared voices again.

Oh no! What is the shepherd going to do? You won’t run away will you shepherd? (Shepherd shakes head). You won’t leave us will you shepherd? (Shepherd shakes head). It’s okay sheep, our shepherd won’t leave us. He will keep us safe!

Shepherd sing ‘I will never, ever leave’ to the same tune as before. Meanwhile the wolf gives up and goes away.

Ask the children how the sheep feel now? Let’s sing in happy voices.

In our special book called the Bible, Jesus said that he was like that shepherd. He said (point to children) ‘You are all like my little sheep. I love you and I will never leave you.

Ask the children to close their eyes for a moment. Say: Let’s imagine that Jesus is coming to us. Let’s sing the good shepherd song – Sing ‘I will never, ever leave’. Instead of singing baa, baa, baa at the end, sing ‘thank you thank you Jesus.’

**Closing prayer**

Dear God

Help us to remember that you have promised to always be with us and help us when we are in trouble or need you. Help us to ask for help when we need it and to help people who need you help. Amen.

