



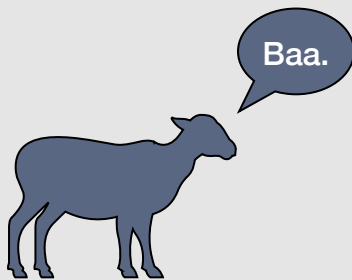
# FAITH AT HOME

Aldersgate Church ~ St. Louis Park, MN

## Week of March 26, 2023: Matthew 25:31-46

### Memory Verse

**Matthew 25:29:** *"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."*



### Family Prayer

Dear God, Thank you for letting us be part of your work. When we serve other people, we serve you. Help us to look for ways to care for those around us. Help us to share your love. Amen.



### The Story

**Theme of the story:** Jesus is telling a parable about separating people into two groups (sheep and goats). He promised to bless those who had served and cared for him, but said it would not go well for those who ignored him when he was in need. The people listening to this message were confused, since they didn't remember seeing Jesus or giving or denying help to him. Jesus would tell the people that whatever they had done to help others, they actually did to help Him. We might be a lot more motivated to help people in need if we recognized that in doing so, we were helping Jesus!

**Retelling For Young People:** Using the parable of the sheep and the goats, Jesus told how one day God will judge the nations. Then Jesus spoke of how real righteousness is demonstrated in caring for others who are needy.



The parable of the sheep and the goats took place at the Mount of Olives. It paints a picture of God sorting the righteous from the unrighteous.

The story of the shepherd separating the sheep and goats is based on the nature of these two groups of

### **Activity:**

#### **Sheep & Goats**

Research sheep and goats online, looking for pictures as examples of how they look different, and information re what each produces (wool, milk). Can you find any other differences?

### **Craft:**

#### **Sheep Mask**

*You will need: white paper plate, cotton balls, glue, scissors*

Cut the middle circle out of the paper plate. Glue cotton balls around the remaining plate. Make big, floppy ears to attach to the plate. Your child can put the plate up to their face and look in a mirror to see their sheep face. Maybe even color their nose black!



animals. The sheep were generally considered to be likable and docile and goats were often mischievous and offensive. Shepherds often kept these two distinctly different animals in the same fold, but separated.

Interestingly, in the parable of the sheep and the goats, Jesus portrays the righteous, who have gone beyond simply talking about their faith, as unaware of the significance of the good they have done. He identifies with the needy when he equates service done for them as being done for him.

What a contrast to the self-righteous attitude of many religious leaders, who flaunted their religiously correct activities, done primarily for their own benefit! They were unaware of the needs of the people around them. It wasn't that they were actively doing wrong, but that they were not doing what was right in helping the needy, thus ignoring much of the teaching in the Scriptures.

Family discussion: How can we help others? Where can we see people who need something? How would Jesus want us to care for people who are hungry? Jesus and his family were refugees when the family fled to Egypt. If Jesus showed up today, how do you think he would be treated?

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