



Advent

ACTIVITIES FOR
WHĀNAU AND TAMARIKI



HE WILL FEED HIS FLOCK

WEEK FOUR

Isaiah 40:11

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

See also John 10.

Prep:

- Select some edible items from the house – some may be less enjoyable (e.g. potato peelings) and if possible at least one food your child/ren would consider a treat.
- Arrange these on a tray. (This activity would be great to do at breakfast or dinner time or a time when you gather as a whānau to eat and people are hungry.)
- Cover the items with a teatowel.

Activity:

Ask – who is feeling hungry? I have some things under this teatowel for us to eat for (breakfast/dinner/snack time). What do you think might be under here? What do you hope might be under here? After some general discussion lift the teatowel and enjoy the reactions to what is on offer. 'Guess' which one you know they would like. 'Guess' which one they hope they don't get. Ask – is there enough here for us? Do you think I know what you need? Now present them with the actual meal you are going to eat. (Perhaps with a treat of berries added or some other treat you consider appropriate.)

Reflection:

As you eat your meal together, share this reflection. In the Bible, God is often described as a shepherd. In his story telling, Jesus also describes himself as a shepherd. Being a shepherd in Jesus' time was very different to how it is in Aotearoa. The ground there is not lush and green with many rivers and streams and so the shepherds needed to be very skilful at finding food for their sheep. The shepherds loved their sheep and they had a special call that their sheep understood and came to. Isn't that cool? When we eat this meal we remember that God cares for our needs. God meets our needs for food but also God meets the need in our hearts to be loved and to be able to be cared for. God doesn't provide us with bits and scraps of his love (like potato peelings or old crusts). When Jesus comes to us on earth God is giving us the best shepherd. God is giving Godself to us, to love us, protect us and care for us.

Prayer:

Thank you God that you care for us and you know us, love us and provide for us.