



**Memorize** 1 John 4:19-20.

**Poem:** Let three children recite these verses from 1 Corinthians 13:1, 4-5 and 6-8:

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, then I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast. It is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking. It is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

**Let the older children write** a poem, song or short story, or give an example of what they have seen happen, that shows how people serve the needy in love. They might do this at home, or during the week in small groups.

**Prayer:** “Lord, we thank you for showing to us what true love is. Help us to love each other like you love us. We want to show our love to you by serving other people who need help. Help us to remember that when we serve others, we are showing you our love for you.”

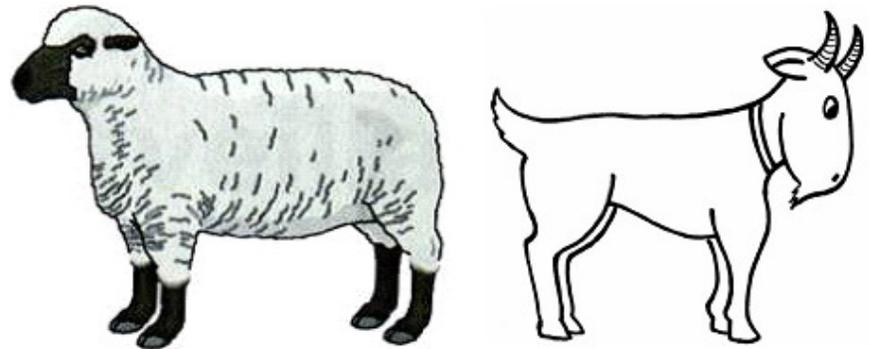
## **We Serve Others Because We Love Them**

### **Know the Difference between ‘Sheep’ and ‘Goats’**

**Prayer.** “Our Father in Heaven, please use this study to encourage the children to serve others in love.”

Choose any of these children's learning activities.

Let an older child or teacher **read the story** of the sheep and the goats from **Matthew 25:31-46**. It tells how God decides whether or not people belong with Him. After telling the story, ask these questions:



### **Questions**

- Who will judge people and separate them like sheep and goats? (Answer: verses 31- 32)
- What did the ‘sheep’ do to show their love for God? (35)
- How did the ‘goats’ treat people who were in need? (42)

- Whom do we really serve when we help other people in need? (40)
- What will happen at the judgment to those who do not love others? (46)

**Dramatize** parts of the story of the sheep and goats from Matthew 25:31-46.

Let **older children** or adults play the parts of **Jesus and Narrator**. Narrator will summarize the story and help the children remember what to say.

Let **younger children** play the parts of **Sheep, Goats and People** who need help.

### **Drama, First Part, Matthew 25:31-40**

**Narrator:** Tell the first part of the story (verses 31-40). Say, "Hear what the people say"

**People:** "Please help me." "I am hungry." "I need clothes." "I am thirsty." "I need a place to sleep." "I am sick."

**Narrator:** "Hear what the sheep say."

**Sheep:** "Come. We will help you, because we love Jesus."

**Jesus:** "I will now separate the sheep from the goats. Sheep, come here with me. You are blessed, because you fed me and clothed me and helped me."

**Sheep:** "When did we do that? We never saw you in need."

**Jesus:** "Whatever you did for one of these poor people, you did for me".

### **Drama, Second Part, Matthew 25:41-46**

**Narrator:** Tell the second part of the story (verses 41-46). Say, "Hear what the people say."

**People:** "Please help me." "I am hungry." "I need clothes." "I am thirsty." "I need a place to sleep." "I am sick."

**Goats:** "Go away! I will not help you."

**Jesus:** "Goats, go away from me! You did not help me when you saw me in need."

**Goats:** "When did we see you in need?"

**Jesus:** "Whenever you neglected someone in need, which is how you treated me, also."

**Narrator:** Thank all who helped with the drama.

**Arrange** with the leader of the congregation for the children to:

- Present the drama to the adults during the worship time.
- Let the children ask the adults the questions that are listed near the beginning of this study.
- Present the poem (see below) and anything else that the children have prepared.

**Ask the children** in what ways we can serve God by serving people in need. Let them give examples.

**Draw a picture** of a bowl of food. Let the children show their pictures to the adults at the next worship time. Let the children explain that this illustrates how we serve God by serving one another in love.