

Watch Out for Wolves

Materials

- ☐ 2 (or more) white balloons or large foam balls
- ☐ 3–4 fly swatters or pool noodles
- ☐ Tape
- ☐ Cones or chairs

Instructions

Inflate white balloons or gather large foam balls for each team to use as a sheep. If using balloons, inflate a few extra in case some pop. Use tape or cones to mark a start line and a line on the opposite side of the room. Use chairs or cones to mark corner boundaries or use tape from the start line to the other line to form side boundaries of a wide lane.

Divide students into two teams. Have each team line up at the start line. Give the first students in line a fly swatter/pool noodle “staff” and a balloon or foam “sheep.” Explain that the students will be shepherds guiding their sheep across the room, over the line, and then back, staying in the lane as much as possible (i.e., they may not simply run outside of the lane).

The shepherds must watch out for wolves! You and/or an assistant will be the wolves. You may stand in the center of the lane or outside of the lane boundaries, but not directly in the path of the shepherds. You will try to cause each team’s sheep to “go astray” by poking them with a fly swatter/pool noodle so that they go out of the lane. Wolves must always keep one foot in place and pivot to reach the sheep. When a sheep goes astray, the student must retrieve it and place it back in the lane at the point where it went out. (The wolf may not attack that student’s sheep again.)

Students must start with their sheep on the ground at the start line. When you say “Go,” they will use their staffs to bat the sheep down the lane, watching out for the wolf (or wolves), cross over the line, and then go back to their team. The next student in line will take the staff and travel with the sheep across the room and back, batting the sheep using only the staff. The first team to finish with their sheep over the start line wins. You may repeat as time allows or change up the way students travel with the sheep, such as batting it while walking backwards, carrying it, or playing with the lights out for nighttime.

Suggested Discussion

Paul described the church as a “flock,” or group of sheep.

? Who looks over the sheep? *A shepherd.*

In the church, the shepherds of the believers are elders and pastors. Paul warned the Ephesian elders to watch out for “fierce wolves” who would try to teach false ideas about God, the Bible, and the gospel. These false teachings could cause the people in the church to go astray.

This still happens today. The false teachers that arise in the church can be hard to recognize. They may even use Scripture but twist the meaning slightly to say something different. It’s important to know the Bible well so we can recognize when the truths of God’s Word are being changed or mishandled.