

David's Psalm

Bible Passage: Psalm 23

Memory Verse: ⁶No one is like you, LORD; you are great, and your name is mighty in power. **Jeremiah 10:6**

Bottom Line: I believe in and love Jesus because He provides everything that I need.

Big Picture Question: Is anything or anyone greater than God? No, God is greater than everything.

Christ Connection: *David compared God's love, protection, and guidance for His people to that provided by a shepherd for his sheep. Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He laid down His life to save people from sin. Because of Jesus, we have hope that one day we will live with God forever.*

Leader Notes:

CONTEXT

The Book of Psalms contains 150 psalms—poems, songs, and prayers—from a time in Israel's history spanning from Moses (about the 1400s BC) to Israel's exile to Babylon (about the 500s BC). Nearly half of the psalms are attributed to King David.

David wrote Psalm 23, one of the most well-known psalms in the Bible. David's background as a shepherd equipped him to use the imagery of a sheep and shepherd to describe the Lord's guidance and care for His people. When Samuel went to Jesse to anoint one of his sons, David was with the sheep. (1 Sam. 16:19) David's experience protecting his father's sheep gave him confidence in the Lord's ability to deliver. (1 Sam. 17:37)

David compared God's love, protection, and guidance for His people to that provided by a shepherd for his sheep. A shepherd leads his sheep to pastures where they can find food. He watches over his sheep to protect them from danger. He cares for them, lifting a fallen sheep from a pit and ensuring not one is lost.

This was David's experience of the Lord. He provided for David's needs. He led him to places of peace and rest. He guided him on the right paths. The Lord was with David, and He is with us.

Point kids to Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Jesus had compassion on the crowds who were "like sheep without a shepherd" (Matt. 9:36). Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11). Jesus laid down His life to save people from sin. He assured His disciples that when He returns, He will gather His sheep from among the nations and welcome them into His kingdom. (Matt. 25:32-34) Because of Jesus, we have hope because one day we will live with God forever.

TEACHING FOCUS (Psalm 23)

In Bible times, people wrote songs called psalms to praise God. **David loved God with all his heart, and he wrote many of the psalms in the Bible.** Before David was a king, he was a shepherd. He fought off lions and bears to protect the sheep. When David thought about God, he realized that God is like a shepherd. **This is a psalm that David wrote about God:**

**"The LORD is my shepherd.
I have everything I need.
He lets me rest in green pastures;
He leads me beside quiet waters.
He gives me strength, and
He leads me along the right paths
for His name's sake.
Even when I go through the darkest valley,
I do not fear danger,
for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff comfort me.
"You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Only goodness and faithful love will be with me**

**all the days of my life,
and I will live in the house of the LORD forever.”**

Christ Connection: *David compared God's love, protection, and guidance for His people to that provided by a shepherd for his sheep. Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He laid down His life to save people from sin. Because of Jesus, we have hope that one day we will live with God forever.*

TODAY'S TAKEAWAYS

- God loves, protects and guides Christians.
- We all need God like sheep need a shepherd.
- God gives us all things that we need.
- **BL:** I believe in and love Jesus because He is provides everything I need.
- Jesus showed He is the good shepherd by teaching, healing, and laying His life down on the cross.

Worship and Story Time

Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story. Some kids (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

Play the DVD of All Star Kids worship (choose 1 song for today)

What You Say: "Way to go! You are such amazing singers. Now let's sit down to learn from the Bible Story today."

What You Do: Introduce the Story

"In Bible times, people wrote songs called psalms to praise God. David loved God very much, and he wrote many songs in the Bible. Even when David was king, he remembered being a shepherd. David said, "The Lord is my shepherd; I have what I need. He gives me rest in green pastures. He leads me to calm water. He makes me feel rested and strong. He leads me on the right paths. Even when I face trouble, I am not afraid because You are with me. Your rod and Your staff protect me. Your goodness and faithful love will be with me all my life, and I will live in the Lord's house forever."

PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO

Check diapers and serve snack.

Activities

Depending on the size of your group, you may lead each activity two or three times. Not every child may want to participate in the activities. That's okay.

1. Sheep in the Pasture

What You Need: Psalm 23 Printable (printed on cardstock 1 per kid), cotton balls, glue sticks, markers and crayons

What You Do:

- Give each kid a copy of the Psalm 23 printable.
- Spread out glue sticks and cotton balls on the table.
- Kids will glue cotton balls to their paper to look like sheep.
- You can use markers and crayons to help them draw legs on their sheep.
- Direct kids to use a blue crayon to draw the "Quiet waters".
- Write their name on their paper when finished.

What You Say "Your papers look like a bunch of sheep enjoying a nice, quiet rest in a field. That reminds me of David's song! David wrote a song to praise God. In that song, he says that God would let him rest in green pastures just like those sheep! Jesus is our Good Shepherd. He gave up His life to save us from sin. Because of Jesus, we have hope that one day we will live with God forever.

2. Practice signing the Memory Verse

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster

What You Do:

- Show the poster to the kids.
- As you say the words point to them on the poster.
- Create simple hand motions to teach toddlers the memory verse. Sample hand motions include, “No one is like you (shake your head, like saying no), Lord (point to the sky); you are great (sign for “great”, both hands up like giving a double high five), and your name is mighty in power (flex your muscles)

What You Say ” The Holy Spirit gave Jeremiah exactly the right words to say to God’s people. God wanted them to know that God is perfect, and there is nothing and no one who can compare to Him. Only God is all powerful, perfectly holy, and eternally loving.”

Pray and Dismiss:

What You Need: no supplies needed

What You Do:

- **Pray:** “God without your loving guidance and protection, we would have no hope. Thank You for sending Jesus, our Good Shepherd and perfect King of Kings. Help us trust in Him for salvation Amen”