

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.

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (15 minutes)

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and small group leaders by providing age appropriate and hands on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day's Bible story.

Follow the Right Path:

What You Need: Pool Noodles (4 per group), masking tape, sheep hats (5 per group)

What You Do:

- Mark a taped path on the floor.
- Talk about how shepherds lead sheep on safe, good paths.
- Then give 5 kids a sheep hat to be the sheep.
- 4 kids will get pool noodles to help herd the sheep to keep them on the path.
- When you say "Go" shepherd will try herd the sheep crawling on their knees around the taped path.
- They can gently use the pool noodles to help nudge the sheep to stay on the path.
- You might want to spend some time talking about words the shepherds could use to help direct the sheep.
- Give kids about 4 minutes to move the sheep through the path.
- If time allows switch sheep and shepherds and repeat the whole process again.

What You Say: "Did your sheep follow your commands? Why/Why not? As David is growing as a king, He is learning about listening to God and following His commands. David said, God is like a shepherd. A shepherd takes care of His sheep and makes sure they do not wander into danger. God is so great and mighty He can help direct our paths. Let's find out more about David today in our Bible Story.

Worship

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."

Story Time: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Engage kid's hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

Bible Story

What You Need: Bible

What You Do: Place a book mark in Psalm 23 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it.

What You Say: The Bible is God's Word. Everything we read in the Bible is true. Today's Bible story is from the Book of Psalms. Psalms is in the Old Testament and most of them are written by King David.

PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO

Talk about the Bible 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.”

Learn the Big Picture Question

What You Say: Our big picture question asks, Is anything greater than God? No God, is greater than everything. Jesus is our good King and our Good Shepherd. He perfectly rules over and cares for His people. Jesus gave up His life to save us from sin. Because of Jesus, we have hope that one day we will live with God forever.”

Practice the Memory Verse:

Open your Bible to Jeremiah 10:6. Read the memory verse aloud several times.

What You Say: “God’s kingdom is everlasting. That means God’s kingdom lasts forever. Because of Jesus, we have hope that one day we will live with God forever as part of His kingdom.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Main Point that was introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leaders.

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”

What You Say: Tell parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during your small group session. Send home the Psalm 23 activity page and tell families, we are talking about how great our God is.