

Unit 11 • Session 6

David's Psalm

2-3's Lesson

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Psalm 23

STORY POINT:

David wrote a song to praise God.

KEY PASSAGE:

Psalm 145:13a

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over everything.



INTRODUCE THE STORY

Opening Activities

(30 MINUTES)



TEACH THE STORY

Large Group

(15 MINUTES)



EXPERIENCE THE STORY

Small Group

(15 MINUTES)



Opening Activity Supplies

- Large plastic tub
- 1 Bag of cotton balls
- Black and brown pom-poms

1

Large Group Supplies

- Bible
- Bookmark

Small Group Supplies

- Paper (green, blue, yellow, black, brown, white, red) 1 sheet of each per group
- "Sheep" printable (1 per child)
- Cottons balls (3-4 per child)
- Glue sticks

LEADER Bible Study

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 preschoolers 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.

The BIBLE Story

David's Psalm

Psalm 23

In Bible times, people wrote songs called psalms to praise God. **David loved God very much, and he wrote many of the songs in the Bible.** Before David was a king, he was a shepherd. He fought off lions and bears to keep the sheep safe. David thought that God is like a shepherd. **This is a song that David wrote:**



“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 life, and

He leads me along the right paths

For His glory.

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 get a meal ready for me in front of my enemies;

You pour oil on my head; my cup overflows.

Only goodness and faithful love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will live in the LORD’s house forever.”

Christ Connection: Jesus is the 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.

- This weekend, Hope is celebrating baptisms. If you need to get out early or come late in order to be a part of or see the baptisms happening today, talk with your coach and other leaders in your room about how responsibilities can be covered. Baptism is a once-in-someone's-lifetime experience, and we want to do everything we can to be sure you don't miss it.

INTRODUCE the Story



Opening Activities

SESSION TITLE: David's Psalm

BIBLE PASSAGE: Psalm 23

STORY POINT: David wrote a song to praise God.

KEY PASSAGE: Psalm 145:13a

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over everything.

Welcome time

Intro Music

Play intro music in the background as you greet preschoolers.

- Large plastic tub
- Cotton balls
- Black and brown pom-poms

Sort out bears and foxes

Fill a large plastic tub with cotton balls. Mix in black, brown, and orange pom-poms. Tell preschoolers to pretend the cotton balls are sheep and the pom-poms are bears and foxes. Invite preschoolers to “protect the sheep” by removing the pom-poms using their hands.

SAY • A good shepherd protects his sheep by defending them against the animals that want to hurt them.

David wrote a song to praise God. Jesus is the Good Shepherd David's Psalm points us to. 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.

TEACH the Story



Large Group

SESSION TITLE: David's Psalm

BIBLE PASSAGE: Psalm 23

STORY POINT: David wrote a song to praise God.

KEY PASSAGE: Psalm 145:13a

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over everything.

· [CG countdown video](#)

· ["Everlasting Kingdom" song and "Crown Him with Many Crowns" song](#)

· Bible
· Bookmark
· [CG Giant timeline](#)

· ["David's Psalm" video](#)

Transition to tell the story

Play the countdown video and invite preschoolers to *baa* like sheep as they move to Large Group.

Sing the key passage song, "Everlasting Kingdom," and the theme song, "Crown Him With Many Crowns."

Introduce the Bible story

Place a bookmark at Psalm 23 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Display the open Bible.

SAY • Today's Bible story comes from a book in the Old Testament called Psalms. Psalms is a collection of songs that people wrote to sing to God. Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues us through His Son, Jesus.

Watch the Bible story

Show the Bible story video.

SAY • We sang songs of praise to God today, and so did people in Bible times. **David wrote a song to praise God.** He praised God for taking care of him like a good shepherd takes care of his sheep. A good shepherd is willing to be hurt or even killed to keep his sheep safe. Jesus cares for us in that way. He died so we could be saved from sin. Jesus is our Good Shepherd. If we turn from our sin and put our trust in Him, we will live with God forever one day!

Practice the key passage

Place the key passage marker at Psalm 145:13. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Invite preschoolers to practice saying the key passage several times.

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.

· Bible
· Key passage marker
· [CG key passage](#)

Learn the big picture question

SAY • Our big picture question is, *How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over 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.

· [CG Big picture question](#)

Pray and transition to experience the story

EXPERIENCE the Story



Small Group

SESSION TITLE: David's Psalm

BIBLE PASSAGE: Psalm 23

STORY POINT: David wrote a song to praise God.

KEY PASSAGE: Psalm 145:13a

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over everything.

LOW PREP

• Paper (green, blue, yellow, black, brown, white, red)

Read the psalm with colors

Form a wide circle on the floor using green, blue, yellow, black, brown, white, red, and yellow paper, in that order. Tape multiple sheets together to form a larger sheet of each color if you have a large group. Lead preschoolers to put their toes on the green paper. Open a Bible to Psalm 23. Read the Bible story script. Lead preschoolers to move to the following colors as you say each phrase from the story:

- He lets me rest in green pastures. (green)
- He leads me beside quiet waters. (blue)
- He gives me life ... for His glory. (yellow)
- Even when I go through the darkest valley (black)
- Your rod and Your staff comfort me. (brown)
- You pour oil on my head. (white)
- Only goodness and faithful love will follow me. (red)
- I will live in the Lord's house forever. (yellow)

SAY • David wrote a song to praise God. David may not have known he was writing about Jesus. Jesus is the 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.

Make sheep art

Print a “Sheep” printable for each child. Provide glue sticks and cotton balls for children to stick the cotton balls to the sheep. Write the Christ connection (**Jesus is the good shepherd**) on each child's art and set it aside to dry.

Retell the story.

SAY • David said God is like a shepherd. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who died to rescue His sheep. **JESUS IS OUR KING** who loves us.

“Sheep”
printable,
Glue stick,
Cotton balls

Transition

Preschoolers may color the Bible story coloring page. If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

· Bible story
coloring
page
· crayons
· *Big Picture
Cards for
Families:
Preschoolers*