



July 27-28, 2019

Unit 11, Session 6

4th-5th Lesson

David's Psalm

Psalm 23

Story Point: David wrote a psalm to praise God.

Open your Bible and read aloud Psalm 23, or tell the story from the following Bible story script.

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.

Supplies: 1 Bag of jumbo marshmallows, plastic bowl, Bibles, Sticky notes

Opening Activities



INTRODUCE the Story

WELCOME TIME

Intro Music

Play intro music and greet each kid as he or she arrives. Help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to share the names of their top three favorite songs. Explain to kids that we can find the words to songs in the Bible.

Large Group Game

Sheep roundup

30 second timer music

Supplies: 1 bag of jumbo marshmallows, plastic bowl

Form teams of two players (two boys and two girls). Guide one player from each team to stand on the stage while holding a bowl on the top of her head. Guide the other teammate to stand about eight feet away in the audience with the bag of "sheep" marshmallows. When you say go, player should try to toss the marshmallows into the "sheep pen" (bowl) on their teammate's head. Players may retrieve dropped marshmallows and try again. Once the 30 second time is up, count the "sheep" in the bowl and have the next team play.

The team to land the most "sheep" in the "sheep pen" wins. Play additional rounds as time allows.

- What do sheep need to protect them?

Sing

"River" song

"Alive" song

Now, it's time to sing songs. Singing is just one way we worship God. When we worship something, we say this is the most important thing to me to me right now. Sing the "River" and "Alive".

Large Group



TEACH the Story

**CG Giant
timeline**

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

David was a great king, but he wasn't perfect. David sinned. But David repented and God forgave him. We read David's prayer of repentance in Psalm 51. The story we will hear today is called "David's Psalm." It's about another psalm by David. Whether this is your first time or your tenth time hearing this story, there is always something new to learn in God's Word.

Read Psalm 23.

- What does this story teach us about God?

CG Question 1

Like a shepherd, **God is with us even in hard times.** A shepherd uses a rod to protect the sheep and a staff to lift them out of dangerous places. **God guides us and protects us too.** Sheep can trust their shepherd completely, and we can trust God completely.

- What shepherd-like descriptions did David use of God?

CG Question 2

David realized that God is like a shepherd, and we are like sheep. God protects us and takes care of us. David wrote, "**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.**"

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.



TEACH the Story

MISSIONS MOMENT

When people go tell others that Jesus is the perfect King, God can change lives for the better. That is what happened when the Harrell's, missionaries in Mozambique, told Adelina the good news that God sent His Son, Jesus, to save her from her sin and to offer her eternal life! Adelina's life changed dramatically. Today we are having baptisms! Being baptized is a great way to share that Jesus has changed your life too! [*celebrate any kids getting baptized*]

Big Picture Question & Answer

CG Big Picture Q & A

How is Jesus the perfect king? Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.

PRAY

Lord, You are our Shepherd. We have everything we need. You let us rest in green pastures; You lead us beside still waters. You give us strength, and You lead us along the right paths for Your name's sake. Even when we go through the darkest valley, we do not fear danger because You are with us. Your rod and Your staff comfort us. We are the sheep, and You are the Shepherd. Thank You for Your care and protection. We love You. Amen.

THE GOSPEL: GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use Scripture and the guide provided below to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.



GOD RULES. Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



WE SINNED. Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



GOD PROVIDED. Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.



JESUS GIVES. Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



WE RESPOND. Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.



APPLY the Story

Big Picture Question

How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.

The Lord is our King and our Shepherd! His kingdom will last forever and He loves us! He will protect us and take care of us. Today—at this very moment!—Jesus is on His throne. He is reigning as our true King.

- What can you do when you begin to doubt God in difficult times?
- How can you show God's love to others?

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Psalm 23. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Psalm 23:1-2. Point out that David wrote a psalm to praise God. We aren't sure when David wrote Psalm 23, but we know he spent time as a shepherd when he was a young boy. Remind kids that David wrote almost half of the psalms in the Bible.

Choose another volunteer to read aloud Psalm 23:1-2 again. Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

1. In what ways is God like a shepherd?

Lead kids to discuss some of the descriptions given in Psalm 23. Help them draw on their knowledge of shepherds and sheep as they recount God's protection and care of His people. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 10:11.)

2. Why do you think people sometimes wander from God?

Allow kids to share their own ideas. Consider why sheep wander from a shepherd (distracted, not paying attention, foolish, enticed by something, and so on). (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Matthew 9:36.)

3. How is Psalm 23 comforting to you?

Invite kids to share what words or phrases are most meaningful to them. Remind kids that when we trust in Jesus, we are one of His sheep and He is our Good Shepherd. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 2 Corinthians 1:3.)



APPLY the Story

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Supplies: sticky notes, Bibles

Prior to the session, write the words of the key passage on separate sticky notes. Include the Scripture reference. Write additional words on sticky notes and put them in a random order on a wall or table.

Instruct kids to open their Bibles to Psalm 145:13. Lead the kids to read the key passage together. Challenge kids to arrange the sticky notes in the correct order, removing words that do not belong. Emphasize that Jesus is the perfect King, and His kingdom will never end.

PRAY

Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Then pray, asking God to help kids hear and follow His voice. Acknowledge our weakness as sheep and praise Jesus for His protection and comfort as our Good Shepherd.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY: A wolf in sheep's clothing

Instruct all of the kids to sit with their heads down and their eyes closed. Walk around the room and discreetly tap one player on the head. That player is the “wolf.” Guide kids to raise their heads and open their eyes.

Instruct the players to each choose one of the following animals—a cat, a sheep, or a chicken. Explain that you will name two animals. Any player who chose one of those animals must stand up and sit in a new seat. Each round, the wolf must also stand up and change seats. The object of the game is for kids to figure out who the wolf is.

After several rounds of naming animals, invite volunteers to guess the identity of the wolf. Play additional matches if time allows. Remind kids that 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.

- **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.**