

Unit 11 • Session 6 David's Psalm

2-3rd Lesson

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Psalm 23

STORY POINT: David wrote a psalm to praise God.

KEY PASSAGE:

Psalm 145:13

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:
How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.



INTRODUCE THE STORY

Opening Activities
(20 MINUTES)



TEACH THE STORY

Large Group
(20 MINUTES)



APPLY THE STORY

Small Group
(20 MINUTES)



Opening Activity Supplies

"Shepherd's Sheep" activity page (1 per kid)
Pencils, markers
Pipe cleaner (1 per kid)
2-3 Cotton balls

Large Group Supplies

1 Bag of jumbo marshmallows
Plastic bucket
Bible
Whistle

Small Group Supplies

Journal page (1 per kid)
Pencils

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 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.

The BIBLE Story

David's Psalm

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.

- 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 psalm to praise God.

KEY PASSAGE: Psalm 145:13

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.

Intro Music

Welcome time

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 some songs in the Bible.

- “Shepherd Word Puzzle” activity page, 1 per kid
- Pencils or markers

Activity page (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Shepherd Word Puzzle” on the activity page. Guide kids to count the blanks and fill in the puzzle with words from the lists provided. Kids can work off the word given to figure out the rest of the words. SAY

- All of these words appear together in the Bible—in Psalm 23. Today we will learn more about this special chapter from God’s Word.

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Sheep herders

Form two teams of kids. Give each kid a pipe cleaner and help them bend one end to form an *L* shape. Play a game of tabletop hockey, using the chenille stems as sticks and a cotton ball as the puck. Designate two areas as goals and assign one team to defend each. The teams will use their sticks to push the puck into the opposing team's goal.

SAY • That was fun. Obviously, shepherds don't knock their sheep around with their staffs, but sometimes it is necessary for shepherds to use their staffs to gently push sheep in the direction they should go. A good shepherd guides and cares for his sheep. Today we will learn how God's love for us is similar in some ways to a shepherd's love for his sheep.

- Pipe cleaners
- Cotton ball

Countdown

Show the countdown video as you transition to Large Group. Set it to end as the session begins.

[Countdown video](#)

Transition to teach the story

TEACH the Story



Large Group

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Large Group game - Sheep roundup

LEADER • Hi everyone! It's great to see you today. I've got a fun game planned for us called Sheep Roundup. I need two teams of two girls and two boys. Who wants to volunteer?

Form two teams of two players each (two boys and two girls). Guide one player to stand on the stage while holding a bucket on the top of his or her head. Guide the other teammate to stand about 5 feet away in the audience with 1/2 the bag of "sheep" marshmallows.

When I say go, the player off the stage should try to toss the "sheep" (marshmallows) into the "sheep pen" (bucket) on their teammate's head.

If you drop a sheep, go get it and hurry back to your spot to try again. Once the 30 second time is up, I will count the "sheep" in the bowl and have the next team play.

The team to land the most "sheep" in the "sheep pen" wins. ***Most importantly! Please don't eat my sheep or we won't be able to play our game next service.*** Are you ready to round up some sheep?

30 Second
timer music

**1 Bag of
jumbo
marshmallows
1 Plastic
bucket**

Sing

LEADER • Let's sing together, praising Jesus as our perfect King.
Sing together "The River" and "Alive".

["The River"](#)
[song](#)
["Alive" song](#)

Introduce the Session

[*Leader enters carrying a lifeguard whistle.*]

LEADER • Hey guys, [hold up whistle] recognize this?

It's my lifeguard whistle. Yep! I'm a lifeguard at our neighborhood pool. We're the ones who you see sitting up high under an umbrella spinning this whistle around our fingers and making sure everyone in and around the pool is safe. And this whistle is a tool that helps with that...

[*blow whistle*] No running!

Anyway, my job is super important and I take it very seriously. Did you know that before you can be a lifeguard you have to go to a lifeguard training class that takes 2 weeks and then you have to pass the test at the end? It's no joke because my training could end up save someone's life!

[*blow whistle*] No diving from there!

You know, being a lifeguard for a bunch of people in a pool is very similar to the ideas we will learn about in our Bible story today. A good lifeguard watches and protects people just like how a good shepherd watches over and protects sheep. Check it out!

[*blow whistle*] Adult swim!

· Whistle

· Bible

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • We've been talking a lot about King David. We

know that he was a great king for the people of Israel. The Bible describes David as a man after God's own heart. That means David wanted to love and obey God. But even though David was a great king, only Jesus is the perfect King. *How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.* That means that Jesus is good and powerful. He can do everything He wants, and what He wants to do is always perfectly good.

CG Big picture question

CG Giant timeline

Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

LEADER • We learned a few weeks back that **God chose**

David to be king instead of Saul. Generally, David was a good king. **David showed mercy even though Saul hated him. God promised David that the Messiah would come from David's family. David showed kindness to Jonathan's son.** But even though David was a good king, he was not perfect. David was a sinner. **David repented and God forgave him,** but only Jesus never sinned at all. Through it all, David's relationship to God grew. David trusted God the way a sheep trusts a good shepherd. Let's hear what David wrote about that.

[“David’s Psalm” video](#)

Watch the Bible story

Show the Bible story video “David’s Psalm.”

Christ connection

LEADER • 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.

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.



Missions moment (3 minutes)

Show the “Changed Life of Adelina” missions video.

LEADER • 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 sins and to offer her eternal life! Adelina’s life changed a lot.

When Jesus is our friend and we trust Him to save us from our sins, our lives change too. Has your life changed because of Jesus? One way to share that Jesus has changed your life is by being baptized. Today, after service we are celebrating baptisms! Make sure to ask your Small Group leader for more information about that.

[“Changed Life of Adelina” missions video](#)

CG Key
passage

Key passage

Show the key passage slide. Lead the kids to read together Psalm 145:13.

LEADER • David was a king, but he knew that God was the real, true King of the universe. God the Father glorified Jesus and gave Him authority over all of heaven and earth as the perfect King of kings. ***How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.***

Pray

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to Small Groups.

LEADER • God, without Your love 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.

Dismiss to apply the story

APPLY the Story



Small Group

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A wolf in sheep's clothing

Instruct the kids to sit in circle with their heads down and their eyes closed. Walk around the small group 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 rounds if time allows.

SAY • Wolves prey on animals like cats, chickens, and sheep. We heard in our Bible story today about how God is like a shepherd. **David wrote a psalm to praise God.** 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 will live with God forever.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

· Pencils
· Journal
Page, 1 per
kid

As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas. 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.

As time allows, lead kids to complete "Psalm 23" on the activity page. Kids should choose a verse from Psalm 23 and write it out. Encourage kids to underline words that are most important to them.