

## Unit 11 • Session 6

# David's Psalm

### 4-5'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)



#### Opening Activity Supplies

"Protect the Sheep" activity page (1 per child)  
Crayons

#### TEACH THE STORY

Large Group  
(15 MINUTES)



#### Large Group Supplies

Bible  
Bookmark

#### EXPERIENCE THE STORY

Small Group  
(15 MINUTES)



#### Small Group Supplies

Paper - 1 of each per group (red, yellow, green, blue, brown, black, white).  
Green story point paper (1 per child), cotton balls (3-4 per child), glue sticks, crayons  
Bible story coloring page

## 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.

### Intro Music

• “Protect the Sheep” activity page, 1 per child  
• crayons

*Note: The Activity Page is an optional opening activity. Please send this home with parents to use as a resource during the week.*

### Welcome time

Play intro music in the background as you greet preschoolers.

### Activity page

Invite preschoolers to circle each sheep in the picture and draw an *X* over each of the sheep's enemies.

**SAY** • A shepherd is someone who takes care of sheep. This shepherd looks like he is taking good care of his sheep. David was a good shepherd. We are going to hear about a song that David wrote to praise God in today's Bible story. In this song, David wrote that God is like a Good Shepherd, and we are like His sheep. Listen to hear what kind of shepherd God is to us.

### Practice being quiet

Provide two or three centers for preschoolers to play in, such as a block center, a home-living center, etc. Tell preschoolers that when you give a signal, such as dimming the lights or playing a song, that you all will lay down and practice being quiet. Alternate allowing preschoolers to play at a normal volume and being quiet.

**SAY** • Raise your hand if you like playing! Raise your hand if you like resting and being quiet! I like both of those things. Sometimes it's nice to stop and have a quiet rest, especially after a long day. In today's Bible story, we will hear a song King David wrote in which he thanked God for giving him times of quiet rest.

# 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 sing 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.

## Put sheep in a pasture

Give the green story point paper to each preschooler. Invite preschoolers to “place sheep in the pasture” by gluing cotton balls to their paper around the story point.

Preschoolers may draw legs under the cotton balls or use a blue crayon to create “quiet waters.”

**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 let him rest in green pastures, just like these 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.

## Review

Remind children how David wrote in Psalm 23 that God got a meal ready for him. **David wrote a song to praise God.** Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. What did David write to praise God? (*a song*)
2. What job did David have before he was a king? (*shepherd*)
3. What animals did David fight off to protect his sheep? (*lions and bears*)
4. Who is our Good Shepherd who gave up His life to save us from sin? (*Jesus*)
5. ***How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over everything.***

## 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. Send home the Bible story coloring page.

- Green story point paper
- Cotton balls
- Glue sticks
- Crayons

- Bible story coloring page
- Crayons