

Lower Elementary

Psalm 23

Checklist

- blindfold
- cardboard cut into shape of shepherd staffs (1 per child)

Introduction:

Do you like songs?

What is your favorite song?

If you were going to write a song, what would it be about?

If you wrote a song about God, what things would you say about Him?

After Samuel anointed David, his life didn't change right away. He continued to watch over his father's sheep. He would lead them to get water, guide them to grassy pastures, and show them the safe roads.



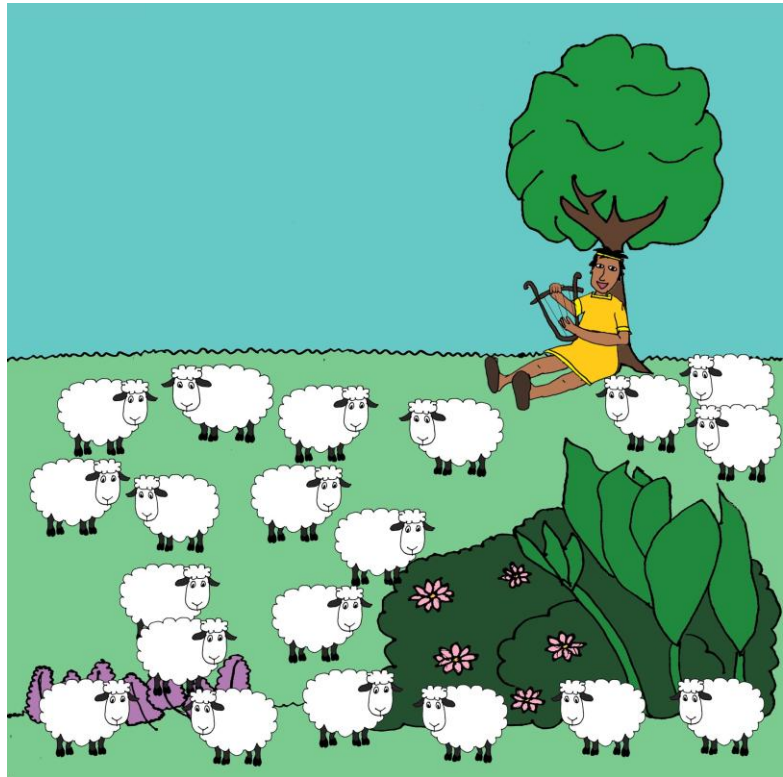
Sometimes a lion or bear would come to try and take one of his sheep. Instead of running away screaming, David fought the wild animal, keeping it from eating the sheep.



But a shepherd's work was not usually so exciting. Most of his time watching the sheep was boring. He would spend hours and hours on end simply sitting on the grass while his sheep ate, feeling either too cold, too hot, too hungry or too lonely.

Like most shepherds, David made the time pass by more quickly by playing songs on his harp. He wrote many new songs himself, which talked about how good God is, and how much He loves us.

David's most famous song was inspired by his own work as a shepherd. He sang about God being like a shepherd, and people being like sheep who are protected by Him.



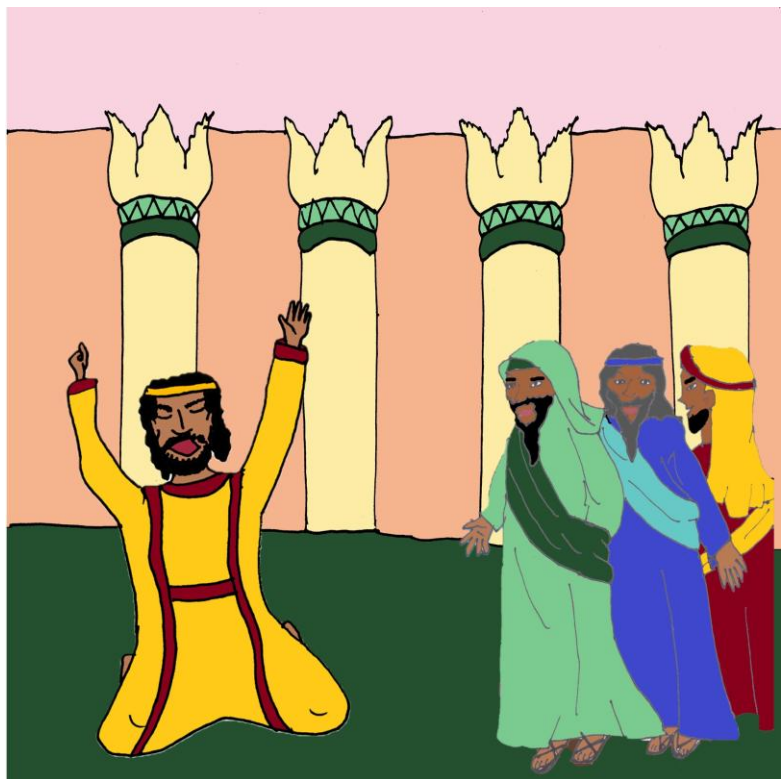
You, Lord, are my shepherd, so I know I will always be taken care of. You bring me to fields of green grass where I can rest. You lead me to streams of gently flowing water, and you refresh my thirsty soul. I follow your name, and you lead me along the safe paths.



Even when I walk through the scariest parts of life's journey, I don't need to be afraid. You discipline me for my own safety. When I am surrounded by those who want to harm me, I can feel as peaceful as if I am sitting at a feast that you have prepared for me. I get to be your honored guest. You fill up my cup with so much kindness and love, that it is overflowing. You are with me each day of my life, and I will live with you forever.



Meanwhile, King Saul no longer felt the Spirit of God guiding him. He was overwhelmed by guilt and his heart was never at peace. “You need someone to sing to you to help you calm down,” his officials told him. “There is a man named Jesse whose youngest son is a harp-player. He sings songs of praise to God and the Lord is with him.”



So, David came, and whenever Saul's mind was distracted and he felt like he couldn't think straight, David would play the harp and sing, and Saul was able to relax.

Saul was so happy with David's help that he stayed at the palace for some time and became Saul's armor bearer. But often, David returned to help with his father's sheep, making the trip back and forth, again and again.



Centuries later, Jesus would tell His disciples, “I am the Good Shepherd.” He would remind them of David’s words as He assured them that He will watch over us and protect us, just as God the Father has always watched over us and protected us.



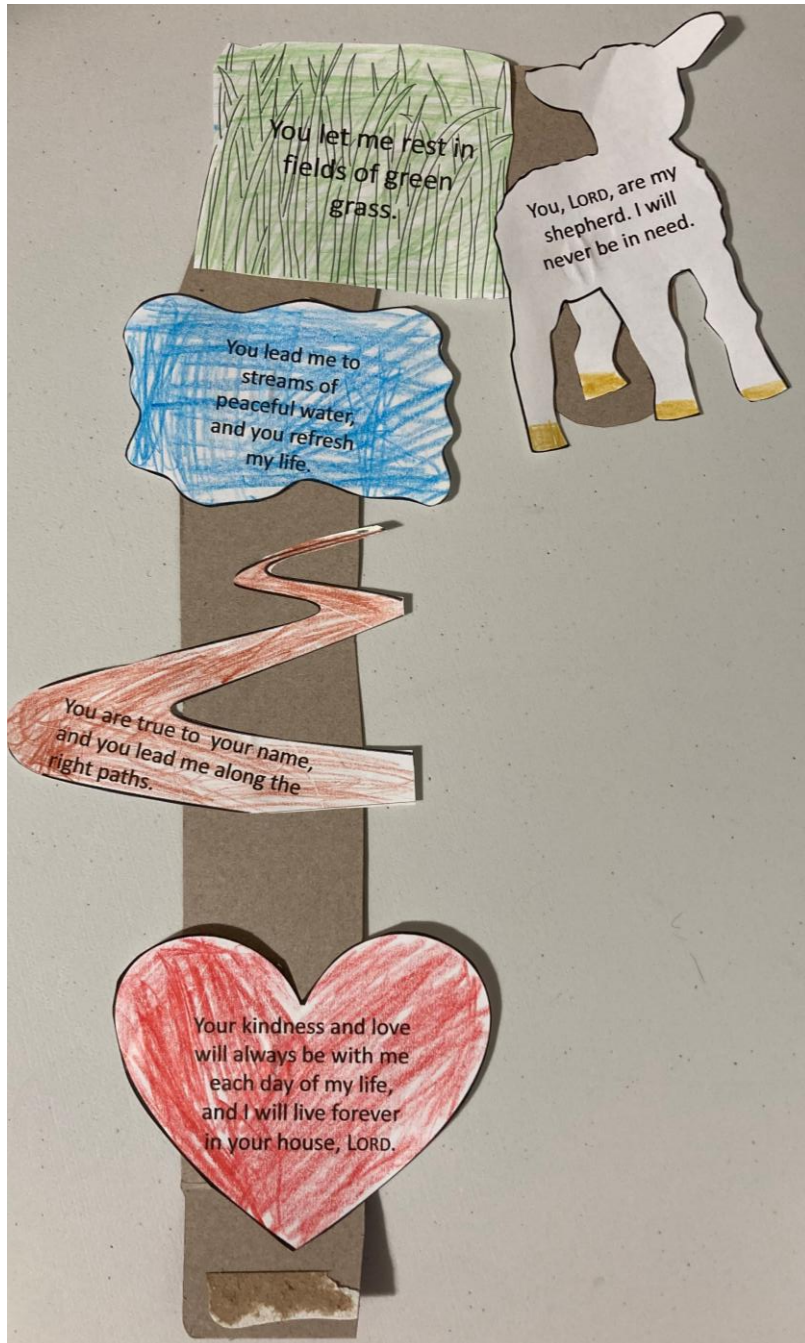
Psalm 23

Name: _____



You, LORD, are my shepherd. I will never be in need. ~ Psalm 23:1

- ❖ Teacher cuts shepherd staffs from large cardboard box (a cereal box is big enough).
- ❖ Children color heart red, grass green, water blue and path brown.
- ❖ Children cut out pieces and glue onto shepherd staff.



Closing Discussion:

What is your favorite line of David's song? (probably read it again)

What job did David have when he was young?

What did God make David?

What does the bible say about David's heart?

What are Psalms? (songs like prayers)

What does this Psalm compare God to?

What does it compare us to?

Who is the Good Shepherd? Why do we call Jesus this?

Why do you think singing songs is an important part of our relationship with God?

Craft:

Psalm 23 Shepherd Staff

Closing Activity:

Choose one child to be the shepherd and blindfold them. Have all other children crawl around room bleating like sheep, one at a time. Have the shepherd try to guess the name of each sheep.