

DAVID'S PSALM

BIBLE PASSAGE: Psalm 23

STORY POINT: David wrote a psalm to praise God.

Paper

Pen

Activity – person poems

Write the following template and example on a piece of paper:

Line 1: person's name

Line 2: two adjectives describing the person

Line 3: three verbs describing the person's actions

Line 4: a four-word phrase telling about the person

Line 5: the person's name or nickname

Encourage your child to think of a person they know well. Guide them to use the poem template to write a poem about their chosen person.

i SAY

You wrote a poem about a person you know well! Today we are going to read a poem from the Bible that David wrote about someone he knew well.

Bible

Bible story

Show the video or read the Bible story.

i SAY

Before David was a king, he was a shepherd. David knew first-hand that a shepherd's job is to protect the sheep and take care of them.

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

Listen again to how David described God: "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."

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.

Tape
Blindfold

Activity - minefield

Use tape to mark Xs on the floor. Form pair. Instruct one kid in each pair to wear a blindfold and the other to study the layout of the Xs on the floor. Direct the blindfolded person to stand at different places around the room. Non-blindfolded kids should offer instructions to their blindfolded partners about how to walk through the “minefield” to reach the opposite sides from where they started. If this proves too difficult, ask the pairs to take turns working together to navigate the “minefield.”

i SAY

Jesus said that He is the Good Shepherd. Jesus told us that His sheep would hear His voice and know Him.

In our game, it might have been hard to pick out your partner’s voice over the voices of all the other kids speaking. In life, we have to listen to God and tune out the voices of people who might— whether on purpose or by accident—lead us away from God.

The Bible is God’s Word, and it contains the definitive commands of God. It is the clearest way we can hear from God to obey Him today.

Christ connection

i SAY

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.

Discussion

Explain that the Book of Psalms is the second book of Poetry and Wisdom in the Old Testament. Remind kids that David wrote almost half of the psalms in the Bible.

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.

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).

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 His sheep and He is our Good Shepherd.

Prayer

Dear God, 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 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.



Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Sing it out:** Set the words of Psalm 23 to music, and when reading that part of the story, sing them to emphasize the original purpose of psalms.
- **Use sound effects:** Play the sounds of sheep bleating, a gentle breeze, and a babbling brook during the first part of the story. Use a spooky owl or animal growl while talking about God's protection from enemies and evil.