



PSALMS OF TRUST

BIBLE PASSAGE: Psalm 23

FOCUS VERSES: John 10:27–28; Isaiah 40:11; Isaiah 26:3;
John 14:27

Summary: The psalms of trust highlight God’s protection and care and encourage trust in Him. Psalm 23 was written by David. It compares God to a shepherd who guides, comforts and provides for His people. David described how God protects us even in fearful times. We can have peace because we can trust Him. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, laid down His life for us, offering forgiveness and eternal life through His death and resurrection.



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

*The LORD is good to all, and His mercy is
over all that He has made.*

(PSALM 145:9)



God is our Good Shepherd.



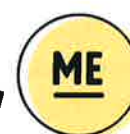
HOW IS GOD LIKE A SHEPHERD?

God lovingly provides for us, guides us, protects us, and comforts us.



WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR US THAT GOD IS OUR SHEPHERD?

We can live in peace, trusting that God is taking care of us.



HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?

Kids will be given the opportunity to reflect on the truth they learned about God and respond accordingly.

Leader TRAINING

LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: NURTURE RELATIONSHIPS

As our relationship grows with a kid, we are better able to meet their needs and anticipate where they may need extra support.

- **Identify their favorites.** Every kid has unique interests and favorites. We show our interest in kids by showing an interest in the things that are important to them. If you have some of a kid's favorite things in your space, point them out to them as they arrive.
- **Know their strengths and challenges.** Kids who are neurodivergent are often identified by their challenges. As we're all fearfully and wonderfully made, we each have amazing strengths. Identify those strengths and give kids opportunities to use them.
- **Identify their triggers.** A kid who is neurodivergent will respond to the world around them differently than a neurotypical person. Lights, sounds or transitions that don't bother others may cause a meltdown with them. When we identify potential triggers, we can be proactive in meeting their needs and communicating to the kid that they are known, loved and will be cared for.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: LONELINESS

In 2023, the surgeon general declared our nation was facing an "epidemic of loneliness," citing research that over 20 percent of adults said they were suffering from loneliness.* Our kids are growing up in a very lonely culture. Many spent a portion of the pandemic isolated from others, and it has been a difficult recovery. Today kids will learn God desires to dwell with His people. They are never truly alone. You can help your group be a place where kids do not feel lonely. Be intentional to connect kids together. Watch for kids who tend to isolate, and work to build relationships with them. Utilize the Belong activities to get to know kids and pay attention to things they share about themselves. Help kids feel known. Most importantly, emphasize God is always near to them, loving them, helping them, and dwelling with them.

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

The Good Shepherd: the One who guides, comforts, and provides for His people

Trust: confidence someone or something is reliable and will do what is expected

*For more resources on this topic, check out: britecurriculum.com/resources.

Large Group ROADMAP

1**WELCOME****(8 MINUTES)**

SUPPLIES: Video player, Intro Video, teaching slides, ball, sheet, laundry basket, chair

2**FIND IT IN THE BIBLE****(2 MINUTES)**

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slides

3**BIBLE TEACHING****(10 MINUTES)****PSALMS OF TRUST
(PSALM 23)**

SUPPLIES: Bible, teaching slides, printable pages, painter's tape

4**REVIEW****(8 MINUTES)**

SUPPLIES: Video player, Bible Review Video, teaching slides

5**LARGE GROUP WRAP-UP****(5 MINUTES)**

SUPPLIES: Video player, Memory Verse Video, teaching slides

Welcome



Say: I am overjoyed to see all of you today. Speaking of seeing, I want to find out if anyone here can make a shot without seeing the target!

Choose three volunteers. Seat one volunteer in the chair and give them the ball. Have the other two volunteers hold up the sheet in front of the chair so the shooter cannot see the basket. Place the laundry basket on the other side of the sheet. Challenge the seated player to shoot the ball into the basket. After the first shot, have the volunteers holding the sheet give directions to help the shooter adjust. Continue playing until the ball goes in the basket, or at least gets close!

Say: Our player had to trust the coaches' voices to attempt the shot. Today we will learn in Psalm 23 that God is like a shepherd to us and that we can trust His voice wherever He leads us.

SUPPLIES:

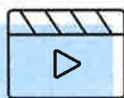
Video player, Intro Video, teaching slides, ball, sheet, laundry basket, chair

PREP:

Place the chair at the front of your space.

LEADER TIP:

During play, don't place the laundry basket directly across from the thrower. Make the location challenging. Make sure the laundry basket is visible for the group so they can see if the ball goes in.



INTRO VIDEO

Play Intro Video then transition into discussion.

Say: That might have been the hardest training exercise the head lifeguard has come up with yet! She's really getting creative in her leadership.

Discuss: What do you think it takes to be a great leader?

Say: God leads us with care, protection, and love like a shepherd taking care of sheep. Today's Brite Idea is: God is our Good Shepherd.

Show teaching slide: Brite Idea

Show teaching slide: He/We/Me Questions

TODAY WE WILL ANSWER THESE TWO QUESTIONS:



How is God like a shepherd?



What does it mean for us that God is our Shepherd?

AT THE END OF OUR TIME TODAY, THE QUESTION YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ANSWER IS:



How is God inviting me to respond?

FIND IT
IN THE

Bible

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

Say: The Bible is real and true. God gave us the Bible so we could know Him. The Bible is filled with many books and stories, but they are all a part of one BIG story — God's story.

WHAT IS GOD'S BIGGER STORY?

Show teaching slide: God's Big Story

Review each part of God's Big Story. Consider discussing each description or asking kids to explain them.

Creation: God is the one true God and He has always existed. He is the Creator of all things, including you and me. He is good, He loves us, and we are made in His image.

Fall: Adam and Eve sinned and disobeyed God. Sin broke the world, and people were separated from God. People could not fix their sin problem on their own.

Redemption: God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross, to take the punishment for our sins, and to rise from the dead to conquer death. When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, our relationship with God is made right again through His grace, and He gives us new life.

Restoration: When we walk with Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit and learn God's Word, He renews us. One day, Jesus will return to renew all things.

WHERE IS TODAY'S BIBLE STORY?

Show teaching slide: Books of the Bible

Say: This week's story comes from the book of Psalms. Psalms is the 19th book of the Bible and found in the Old Testament.

Show teaching slide: Find It in the Bible Timeline

Say: This story can be found in the book of Psalms. The book of Psalms is a collection of songs, hymns and prayers that were written during different times within the Old Testament period.

Say: This month we are focusing on the truth that God is good. Last week we learned about psalms of lament and how God is good even when we are hurting. This week we will learn that God is our Good Shepherd who we can trust to lead, protect and restore us.

LET'S FIND IT IN OUR BIBLES!

Open your Bible and show the kids the title page for the book of Psalms. Help kids turn in their Bibles to today's Bible passage (Psalms 23).

Say: Let's find the book of Psalms together. Remember, the front of your Bible has a Table of Contents if you need that. Next, we will find the chapter. Find the big number 23. The verses are the little numbers. Find the little number 1.

Bible TEACHING

PSALMS OF TRUST

PSALM 23



PRAY: God, You are good and You lead and protect us every day. Help the words of Psalm 23 draw our focus to Your great care and attention today. Amen.

SUPPLIES:

Bible, teaching slides, printable pages, painter's tape

PREP:

Print the printable pages and tape them to the walls all around your space.

LEADER TIP:

Adhere the pages at places easily accessible on the wall.



As you tell the story, select one kid at a time to follow you to specific signs placed around your space. When it is time, approach a kid and say, "Follow me." Lead them to the correct sign and have the child read the sign for the group. Each kid will stay with you and be your "flock."

Say: Psalms of trust proclaim the safety God provides for us and encourage trust in Him. The most well-known psalm of trust is Psalm 23. This psalm describes God as our Shepherd. King David paints a beautiful picture of how God lovingly provides for us, guides us, protects us and comforts us.

Select a kid to stand and follow you to the "Father's Fields" sign by approaching them and saying, "Follow me." Instruct them to read the sign to the group and then stay by your side.

Say: Before David killed the giant Goliath and became king, he was a shepherd boy in his father's fields. As he wrote Psalm 23, he could have been thinking about his time as a shepherd and all he did to care for his sheep.

Show teaching illustration: Good Shepherd

Say: David begins the psalm by saying: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. David saw that he had what he needed because God provided for him.

Select another kid to join your flock and follow you to the "Green Pastures" sign by approaching them and saying, "Follow me." Instruct them to read the sign to the group and then stay with you and the flock.

Bible TEACHING CONTINUED

Say: Sheep need grass to eat and they don't drink from flowing streams. So David wrote: The Lord... makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

Select another kid to join your flock and follow you to the "Still Waters" sign by approaching them and saying, "Follow me." Instruct them to read the sign to the group and then stay with you and the flock.

Say: God is the perfect Shepherd and knows exactly what we need.

The psalm continues, saying: He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Select another kid to join your flock and follow you to the "Paths of Righteousness" sign by approaching them and saying, "Follow me." Instruct them to read the sign to the group and then stay with you and the flock.

Say: "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."

Say: Shepherds used their rods to protect the sheep from enemies, and they used their staffs to help sheep who were in trouble. God protects us and helps us, even in the scariest times.

Say: After a day of travel, shepherds would care for the tired sheep by spreading out food in a place where they could be protected from dangerous animals or thieves. The shepherd would also provide water for the sheep's thirst and put oil on their heads to protect them from bugs or other pests. David describes how God takes care of us like this.

Select another kid to join your flock and follow you to the "Prepared Table" sign by approaching them and saying, "Follow me." Instruct them to read the sign to the group and then stay with you and the flock.

Read Psalm 23:5 directly from your Bible: *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*

Say: He gives us what we need, even more than we need, while keeping us safe. Because God is such a Good Shepherd, we can live in peace, trusting that God is taking care of us.

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(CONTINUED)

Bible TEACHING CONTINUED

Show teaching illustration: David Peace

Say: The end of the psalm says:

Read Psalm 23:6 directly from your Bible: *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

Have the volunteers return to their seats.

Show teaching slide: Point to Jesus



POINT TO JESUS

Say: In John 10:11, Jesus said: *"I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep."* God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to lay down His life for us. When Jesus died on the cross and rose again, He provided a way for our sins to be forgiven and for us to have eternal life.



Review



BIBLE REVIEW VIDEO

Play Bible Review Video. Play the game below using teaching slides: Review Game

SUPPLIES:

Video player, Bible Review Video, teaching slides

PREP:

None

INSTRUCTIONS: For each answer, the group will give a thumbs-up for true and thumbs-down for false.

- 1. Psalm 23 describes God as a builder. (False)**

Psalm 23 describes God as a shepherd.

- 2. David knew he had all he needed because God provided for him. (True)**

- 3. God protects us like a shepherd protects his sheep. (True)**

- 4. A shepherd protects sheep from dangerous animals, but not small things like bugs and pests. (False)**

The shepherd would put oil on the flock's heads to protect them from bugs or other pests.

- 5. God is like a shepherd because He lovingly provides for us, guides us, protects us and comforts us. (True)**

- 6. Having God as our Shepherd means we should always be nervous. (False)**

We can live in peace, trusting that God is taking care of us.



Wrap – Up

Show teaching slide: Brite Idea



SUPPLIES:

Video player, Memory Verse Video, teaching slides

PREP:

None

Show teaching slide: He Question and Answer



How is God like a shepherd?

God lovingly provides for us, guides us, protects us and comforts us.



MONTHLY Memory Verse

Choose an older kid to look up the verse and read it aloud to the group. Have the whole group repeat it together.

Show teaching slide: Memory Verse

The LORD is good to all, and His mercy is over all that He has made.

(PSALM 145:9)

Show teaching slide: We Question and Answer



What does it mean for us that God is our Shepherd?

We can live in peace, trusting that God is taking care of us.



VERSE VIDEO

Play Memory Verse Video after the verse is read.



PRAY: God, You care for us and provide for our every need because of Your great love. May we rest in Your protection and trust Your leadership as our Good Shepherd. Amen.



FATHER'S FIELDS



STILL WATERS



GREEN PASTURES



PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS



**PREPARED
TABLE**

