



PSALM OF TRUST

BIBLE PASSAGE PSALM 23; 1 SAMUEL 16

Summary: The psalms of trust highlight God's protection and care, and they encourage us to trust in Him. Psalm 23 was written by David. It compares God to a shepherd who guides, comforts and provides for His people. David describes 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.

Today's Brite Idea is: God is our Good Shepherd.



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

The Lord is good to all.
(PSALM 145:9)



BIG QUESTION

How do I know God is good?
Through His love for us.



LEADER TRAINING: ART AND FEELINGS

Sometimes little ones don't have the words to say they're sad, excited or frustrated, but giving them creative outlets can make a big difference. Try setting up an "art station" with coloring supplies and paper where kids can draw what they're feeling. You might say, "Can you draw a picture of what you're feeling today?" This gives kids a safe way to process their emotions. Music is another great tool! Singing songs about emotions, or even playing soft, calming music during transitions, can help kids feel more at ease. You can also encourage movement—such as dancing, clapping or stomping—as a fun way for kids to release big feelings. By giving kids creative ways to express themselves, you're helping them learn that their feelings matter—and that God cares about all of them.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: LONELINESS

In 2023, the surgeon general declared our nation was facing an "epidemic of loneliness," citing research showing that more than 20 percent of adults say they are suffering from loneliness.* Our kids are growing up in a very lonely culture. Many preschoolers have older siblings who grew up isolated from others due to the pandemic. Today kids will learn how God wants 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 in connecting with kids and helping them connect with one another. Watch for kids who tend to isolate and 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 that God is always near to them, loving and helping them.

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

PRESCHOOL GLOSSARY:

Anoint: to put oil on

Presence: being with someone or something

1

BELONG

Small Group (15 MINUTES)

GOAL: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

PASS THE STUFFED ANIMAL

SUPPLIES: Stuffed animal

OR

ROLL THE DIE

SUPPLIES: Die

2

BIBLE TEACHING

Large Group (20 MINUTES)

PSALM OF TRUST

(PSALM 23: 1 SAMUEL 16)

SUPPLIES: Bible, teaching slides, teaching pictures (printed/shown from teaching slides), video player, music player

3

BELIEVE

Small Group (10 MINUTES)

GOAL: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

MEMORY VERSE POP

SUPPLIES: Memory Verse Song, music player, bubble machine, bubble solution

OR

GOD TAKES CARE OF ME

SUPPLIES: Printable pages, scissors (prep)

4

BECOME

Small Group (15 MINUTES)

GOAL: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

SHEEP PUPPETS

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, coloring supplies, paper lunch bags (1 per kid), eye stickers (1 pair per kid), cotton balls (1 handful per kid), glue sticks

OR

FOLLOW THE SHEPHERD

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, coloring supplies, painter's tape



PASS THE STUFFED ANIMAL

SUPPLIES:

Stuffed animal

PREP:

None

ACTIVITY INTRO:

Welcome, everyone! My name is _____. Can you each tell us your name?

Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Gather kids to sit in a circle.*
2. **Say:** We will pass this stuffed animal around our circle as you share what your favorite animal is with the group.
3. *Pass the stuffed animal around the circle and help each kid say what their favorite animal is. Ask kids what sound each animal makes to help kids connect with one another.*
4. **Say:** Now we will pass this stuffed animal around as we sing "Jesus Loves Me" together.
5. *Begin passing the stuffed animal as you sing "Jesus Loves Me."*
 Jesus loves me, this I know,
 for the Bible tells me so.
 Little ones to Him belong.
 They are weak, but He is strong.
 Yes, Jesus loves me.
 Yes, Jesus loves me.
 Yes, Jesus loves me.
 The Bible tells me so.
6. *Repeat the song and encourage kids to sing along with you.*
7. **Ask:** Who can you love and trust?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

You did a great job passing the stuffed animal and singing! God loves every kid, and He is always good. I'm so glad we're together today to learn more about God's love, trust and goodness.



ROLL THE DIE

SUPPLIES:

Die

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP:

Invite kids to take turns rolling the die themselves. Giving them leadership in the activity helps them feel seen and valued.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:

Consider kids' physical abilities with the actions. Modify as needed (e.g., making arm circles instead of spinning in circles).

ACTIVITY INTRO:

Welcome, everyone! My name is _____. Can you each tell us your name?

Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Let's play a movement game! When we roll the die, we'll do a fun action together! Let's see what number we roll. Each number means we get to move a different way!
2. *Invite a kid to roll the die. Say the number out loud and lead the group in the matching action.*
3. **Movement guide:**
 - 1—Jump up and down
 - 2—Spin in a circle
 - 3—Clap your hands
 - 4—Stomp your feet
 - 5—Touch your toes
 - 6—Reach up high
4. *As time allows, play several rounds, picking a new kid to roll the die each time. Repeat the actions together.*
5. **Ask:** Can we praise God with our bodies?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

That was so much fun! God made every part of you, and He loves it when we use our bodies to move, play and worship. Today we will learn how we can trust that God is good.

INTRO:

Play the Countdown Video and guide kids to sit together for large group teaching time.

WELCOME:

Say: Hi, everyone! Raise your hand if you are ready for today's Bible story! I know I am! Before we jump into today's story, let's review what we have learned so far.

RECAP FROM *Last Week*

Say: First we learned about Psalm 19 and how it teaches us about wisdom. God's Word helps us to be wise. God's Word and creation show us how good and amazing God is.
Show teaching illustration: God's Word (Image 06).

Say: Then we learned about a psalm filled with lots of feelings. No matter how we may feel—whether sad, angry or even hurt—we can always go to God. His goodness stays the same no matter how we may feel. God is holy, and He gives us hope.
Show teaching illustration: David's Feelings (Image 07).

Say: Today we will learn a true story from the Bible about trust. Can you say that with me? One, two, three ... "Trust!" Great job!

Say: Let's take a look at this month's Big Question. Can you help me do a drumroll? Ready? One, two, three ... drumroll!

? BIG QUESTION

Show the Big Question Teaching Image.

Say: How do I know God is good? In today's Bible story, we will learn more about God's goodness and how it never changes.



PLAY FIND IT IN THE *Bible Song*

Play the "Find It in the Bible" song.

Hold up a Bible.

Say: Who can tell me the name of this book? Allow kids to respond.

SUPPLIES:

Bible, teaching slides, teaching pictures (printed/shown from teaching slides), video player, music player

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP:

Help kids pay attention to today's Bible story by having them pretend to hold a shepherd's staff whenever they hear the word shepherd. For more engagement, before teaching the Bible story allow kids to come up with other movements for when they hear the word shepherd.

Say: Yes! This book is called the Bible. The Bible is the most important book of all. The Bible is full of true stories about how God takes care of His people and loves them. Today we will hear a story from the Old Testament in Psalms and 1 Samuel 16. The Old Testament is filled with lots of stories about the very beginning, God's people and God's promises.

PSALM OF TRUST

(PSALM 23; 1 SAMUEL 16)

Say: This month we are learning about the book of Psalms in the Bible. The book of Psalms is filled with songs, prayers and poems that help us talk to God. Many of these psalms were written by King David. Do you remember learning about King David? If so, nod your head yes! Do you remember when God picked him to be king? *Pretend to put an imaginary crown on your head.*

Say: God told a man named Samuel to find the next king of Israel. God told Samuel the next king was one of Jesse's sons. Samuel met Jesse's oldest son and thought, *This man must be the king God had chosen!*

Say: But God didn't choose this oldest son to be king. God said, "Do not look at what he looks like or how tall he is. He isn't the one I have chosen. People care about what others look like on the outside, but God looks at the heart." *Point to your heart.*

Say: Samuel looked at seven of Jesse's sons. Let's count together! One, two, three, four, five, six, seven! None of them were the new king! Samuel asked, "Are these all your sons?"

Say: Jesse said he had one more son, but he was the youngest and he was out watching the sheep. What sound does a sheep make? Baaa! Jesse brought David to Samuel, and God said, "This is the one. This is the next king."

Say: Many years later, David became king, just like God said. But he started out as a shepherd boy. In Psalm 23, David tells us about how God is the Good Shepherd!

Say: How is God like a shepherd? God is like a shepherd because He provides, guides, protects and comforts us! Whenever you hear the word shepherd, I want you to pretend like you're holding a shepherd's staff. Let's practice together. God is a Good Shepherd. Good job! Now let's learn more about Psalm 23 and how we can trust God.



Say: The very beginning of Psalm 23 says, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." God is the perfect Shepherd, and He gives us what we need.

Show teaching illustration: Good Shepherd (Image 08).

Say: Shepherds protect their sheep, and God protects us when times are scary or when we are in trouble. God is always there for us.

Say: God is a Good Shepherd! We know God will always care for us, just like a Good Shepherd would care for his flock of sheep. We can trust in God and know that God's goodness will be there all the days of our lives.

Show teaching illustration: David Peace (Image 09).

POINT TO JESUS:

Say: In John 10:11, Jesus says, "The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep." Jesus was sent to lay down His life for us. He died on the cross and rose again, providing the only way for us to be forgiven from our sins and live with God forever.

Say: Let's close in prayer as we wrap up our Bible story time together. Reach your hands up really high.

Reach hands up high.

Say: Now clap them together like this.

Clap hands together.

Say: Let's pray.

Pray: Dear God, thank You for being a Good Shepherd. Thank you for how you provide for us, guide us, love us and care for us. Help us to always tell others about You and share how caring You are. Amen.



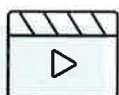
BIG QUESTION

Say: Now it's time to answer our Big Question. Can you all help me do a drumroll?
Ready? One, two, three ... drumroll!

Show the Big Question Teaching Image.

Say: How do I know God is good? Through His love for us.

Say: That's right! The Bible teaches us that God is our Good Shepherd. God cares for us, provides for us, guides us and loves us.



VERSE VIDEO

*Play Memory Verse Motion
Video after the verse is read.*

MEMORY VERSE MOTIONS:

*Help kids recite and retain the memory
verse by teaching it with motions. Before
you teach the verse, be sure to explain
what it means.*

- The Lord (place L hand on your shoulder
and carry down to hip)
- is good (thumbs up)
- to all. (point around the room)
- Psalm 145:9 (open hands like opening
a book)



MONTHLY

Memory Verse

The Lord is good to all.
(PSALM 145:9)



REVIEW:

Say: It's been so great being with you today, friends! Before we end our teaching time, let's review what we have learned. Let's all point up really high and say, "God is a Good Shepherd."

Have the kids point up and say, "God is a Good Shepherd."

Say: Now let's reach our hands out to the side and say, "God is our Good Shepherd."

Have the kids reach out and say, "God is our Good Shepherd."

Say: Now let's point to ourselves and say, "God is my Good Shepherd."

Have the kids point to themselves and say, "God is my Good Shepherd."



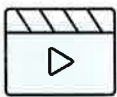
God is a Good Shepherd.



God is our Good Shepherd.



God is my Good Shepherd.



* Consider showing the Bible Review Video as kids eat snack, are waiting for pick-up, or another time that fits your church's schedule.



MEMORY VERSE POP

SUPPLIES:

Memory Verse Song, music player, bubble machine, bubble solution

PREP:

Fill the bubble machine with bubble solution.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:

Kids with sensory needs might dislike getting sticky from popping bubbles. A small object, like a cotton swab, can be used instead of fingers to pop bubbles.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

The Bible teaches us true stories about God. Today we learned God is a Good Shepherd! A Good Shepherd protects, guides and cares for His people. God cares about you!

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Our memory verse says, *The Lord is good to all.* (Psalm 145:9) Let's say that together: *The Lord is good to all.* (Psalm 145:9)
2. **Say:** Let's sing our Bible verse and pop the bubbles together.
3. **Start the bubble machine and press play on the Memory Verse Song.**
4. **As the song plays, lead kids to dance, wiggle and pop the bubbles. At the end of the song, lead kids to say, "God is good!" Then repeat the song and encourage kids to sing along.**
5. **Ask:** Who is God good to?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

You did a great job singing and popping the bubbles! Today we learned about God's goodness and how God is good to all. Who is God good to? God is good to you! *Point to someone next to you.* God is good to everyone!



GOD TAKES CARE OF ME

SUPPLIES:

Printable pages, scissors (prep)

PREP:

Print the printable pages and cut out.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

The Bible teaches us true stories about God. Today we learned that God is the Good Shepherd. We can trust in God and know that He will guide, care for and comfort us.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lay the matching cards face down in rows.*
2. **Say:** Let's play a matching game. We will each take a turn and try to find a matching pair of items. If you don't flip over a pair, then flip them back over and try to remember what's on them for your next turn.
3. *Give each kid a turn to flip over two cards. If they match, then let them keep the pair. If they don't match, have the kid turn them back over.*
4. *Repeat until all the matches have been found.*
5. *As kids are playing, ask them how they think God cares for them and others.*
6. **Ask:** Who can you tell that God cares for them?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

God is our Good Shepherd. We can remember how good God is and praise Him for it!



SHEEP PUPPETS

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, coloring supplies, paper lunch bags (1 per kid), eye stickers (1 pair per kid), cotton balls (1 handful per kid), glue sticks

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Today we learned how God is a Good Shepherd. What animal does a shepherd take care of? Sheep! Let's make a sheep puppet together to remember how God cares for, protects and comforts us.
2. *Pass out a paper lunch bag, a pair of eye stickers and coloring supplies to each kid.*
3. *Encourage kids to color their lunch bag and add the eye stickers to the top flap of their bag.*
4. *Help kids draw a little nose and smile under the eyes.*
5. *Pass out a handful of cotton balls to each kid. Help place glue onto the bags and show kids how to press the cotton balls onto the glue spots to make sheep wool.*
6. **Say:** Now you can use your sheep puppet to remember: God is my Good Shepherd!
7. *Write each kid's name on their craft and set aside for parent pickup.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What does a shepherd do?
- Who is the Good Shepherd?
- How do we know God is good?
- Who loves everyone?

PRAY TOGETHER:

Dear God, thank You that You are good to us. We love learning more about how good You are. Please help us remember that You are the Good Shepherd. In Jesus' name, amen.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Give each kid a Take-Home page. With remaining time, kids can play in centers or color the Take-Home page.



FOLLOW THE SHEPHERD

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, coloring supplies, painter's tape

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Use painter's tape to create a path with squares or arrows on the floor.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:

Kids with physical limitations can call out the instructions to the group.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Today we learned that God is our Good Shepherd. That means He leads us, and we can follow Him. Let's play a fun game called "Follow the Shepherd."
2. **Say:** I will be the shepherd, and you will be my sheep. Stay close and follow me! We will walk on a special path together.
3. *Lead kids around your space, slowly following the taped path on the floor.*
4. *Stop at various spots to do simple movements, such as jumping in a square, tiptoeing past a line, spinning in a circle at the corner, etc.*
5. *Give simple instructions, such as:*
 - Jump in a square like a sheep that can hop up and down!
 - Tiptoe quietly like sheep in the grass.
 - Stop and freeze like sheep listening to their shepherd.
6. *If time allows, let kids take turns being the shepherd.*
7. *Once you are done, gather kids to sit down together and review the discussion questions.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What does a shepherd do?
- Who is the Good Shepherd?
- How do we know God is good?
- Who loves everyone?

PRAY TOGETHER:

Dear God, thank You that You are good to us. We love learning more about how good You are. Please help us remember that You are the Good Shepherd. In Jesus' name, amen.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Give each kid a Take-Home page. With remaining time, kids can play in centers or color the Take-Home page.

CENTERS:

Set up 3–4 centers around the room for kids to explore and learn as they play. While kids explore the centers, leaders can work with individuals or small groups to make the craft. Set up each center in a separate part of the room, making sure all kids are visible at all times. Show the whole group what is in each center and give simple instructions on what kids should do in each center.

- **Sensory Bin:** Fill a bin with cotton balls and cups. Encourage kids to see how fast they can scoop out the cotton balls. Share how the cotton balls are like the sheep from the Bible story.
- **Modeling Dough:** Provide modeling dough for kids to create a shepherd's staff with.
- **Dramatic Play:** Set out toy animals. Encourage kids to play with the animals, pretend to feed them and care for them.

BONUS SCRIPT:

Preschoolers learn best through repetition. Use the script below to review the story at any opportunity. You could review the story while kids play in centers, while they work on their craft, during snack time or while waiting for parents.

Say: Psalm 23 was written by David. God chose David to be king. But before David was king, he was a shepherd boy. David compares God to a shepherd. A shepherd guides, comforts and provides for those in his care just like God does. We can trust in Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who came to die on the cross so we could be forgiven and live with God forever.

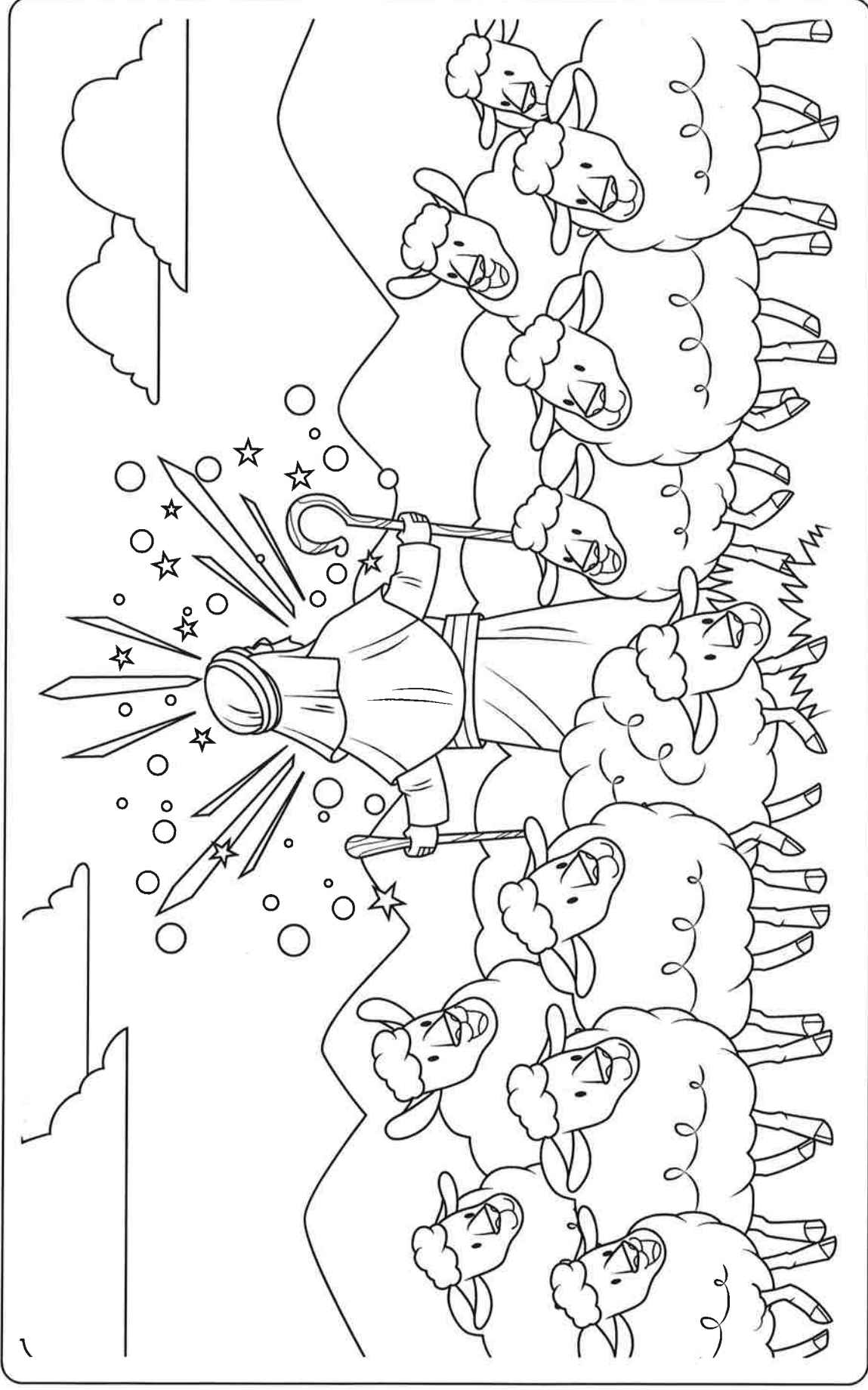


BIG QUESTION

How do I know God is good?
Through His love for us.

PSALMS OF TRUST

Psalms 23, 1 Samuel 16

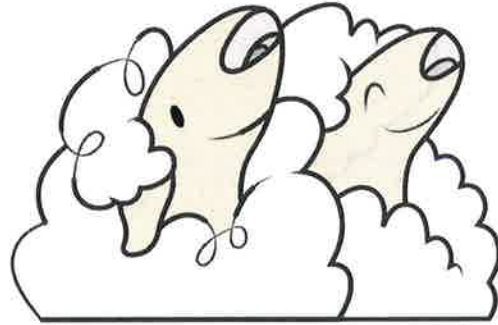


GOD TAKES CARE OF ME

OLDER PRESCHOOL
PSALMS OF TRUST

PAGE 1 OF 1

PREP: Print the printable page and cut out.



GOOD SHEPHERD

PSALMS OF TRUST

Psalm 23, 1 Samuel 16

? BIG QUESTION

How do I know God is good? Through His love for us.

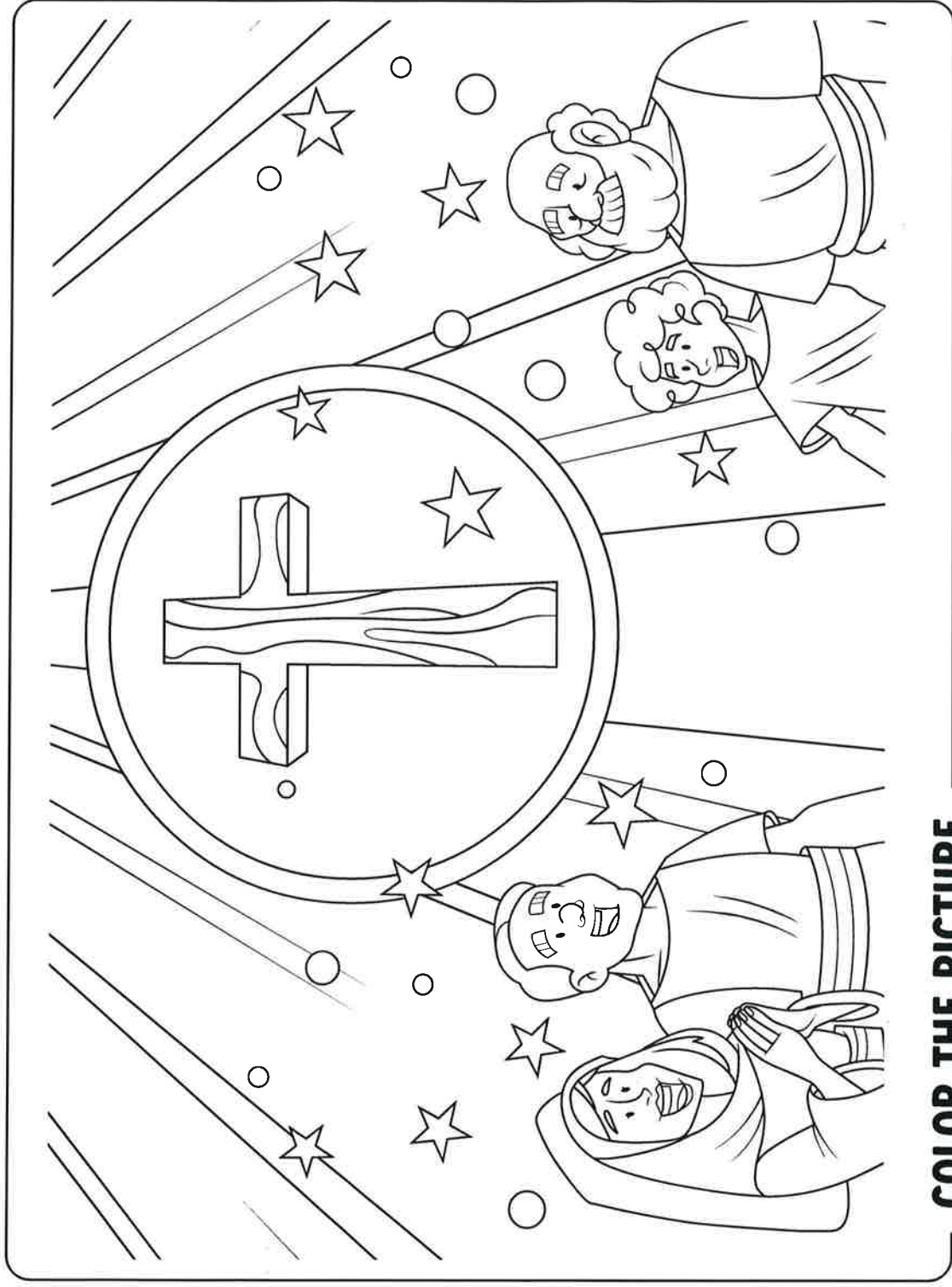


God is our Good Shepherd.



The LORD is good to all.
(Psalm 145:9)

SCAN ME!
FOR AT-HOME
DISCIPLESHIP DISCUSSION



COLOR THE PICTURE

brite*

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OLDER PRESCHOOL

Take-Home Page

PSALMS OF TRUST

Psalms 23, 1 Samuel 16

TRACE AROUND THE LINES

