

# PART 1: GOD LOVES ME/JESUS LOVES ME

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*In this lesson, kids will learn how God always knows what we need, and will always be there to provide for us.*

**TOPICS:** Protection, Provision, Psalm 23, Shepherd

## Read Psalm 23:1-3 “The Lord is My Shepherd” (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul.

<sup>3</sup> He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake."

## SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION

Psalm 23 was written by King David as a joyful acknowledgement of what the Lord God meant to him. David was a shepherd when he was young and probably a good one. He knew that a good shepherd must take care of the flock by keeping them together, properly counting them, and ensuring no sheep strayed or wandered into harm. Good shepherds provide green pastures and drinking water for their sheep. David called God his Good Shepherd, because he knew God loved him and wanted to take good care of him.

There are many references of shepherd and sheep/flock in the bible. Read each one and think about how verses 1-3 of Psalm 23 are used in context.

### Old Testament:

#### **Isaiah 40:11**

He ends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

#### **Ezekiel 34:11-16 and 34:23**

<sup>11</sup> ...the Sovereign Lord says: 'I myself will search for my sheep and look after them.' ...

<sup>15</sup> 'I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down'

<sup>16</sup> 'I will shepherd the flock with justice.'

<sup>23</sup> 'I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd.'

#### **Jeremiah 31:10**

'He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.'

## New Testament:

### **John 10: 11; 10:14-15**

<sup>11</sup> "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

<sup>14</sup> "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me."

<sup>15</sup> ...I lay down my life for the sheep."

### **1 Peter 2:25**

25 "You were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

### **Hebrews 13:20**

Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep,...

### **Revelation: 7:17**

"For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; 'he will lead them to springs of living water.' 'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.' "

## **Discussion Questions:**

1. What does a shepherd do?  
*(Takes care of a flock of sheep, takes them to places to eat and drink, keeps them safe, etc.)*
2. Why did David call the Lord his shepherd?  
*(God provided for David and kept him safe, etc.)*
3. In verse 1, David says, "I shall not be in want." What do you think this means?  
*(God will give David everything he needs, just as a shepherd provides everything his sheep need.)*
4. Does a good shepherd let his sheep lie down in bare, dry pastures?  
*(No, he makes them lie down in green lush pastures.)*
5. How can a drink of cool calm water restore your soul?  
*(Jesus is the living water, and when we drink from Him our thirst for a spiritual life with God will be satisfied.)*
6. What kind of paths should we travel to glorify Jesus?  
*(Paths of righteousness.)*
7. If you were a little lamb in a big flock under the care of a good shepherd, how would you feel? Why?  
*(Safe, loved, well fed, clean, happy, welcome.)*