

# LESSON 2: GOD IS WITH ME / JESUS IS WITH ME

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*In the second lesson covering Psalm 23, the kids will learn that we can feel safe and protected because we have a Good Shepherd to watch over us, to make sure we do not stray and to show us the way.*

## TOPICS

Comfort, Protection, Psalm 23, Shepherd

## REVIEW

**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."

Last week we learnt how King David was a shepherd and acknowledged of what the Lord God meant to him. We learnt that a Good Shepherd takes care of his flock from going astray, feeds them in green lush pastures and clean, calm waters; and protects them.

Reflect on this in your life today. Who protects and feeds you? All is provided from God through Jesus Christ, but we can feel good knowing our parents, grandparents, teachers, etc. look out for us too every day.

## SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION

This week we'll concentrate on verse 4:

<sup>4</sup> **"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." NIV**

### Introduction:

In David's time, shepherds were in constant watch over their sheep because danger was all around. Sheep would make great food for wild animals, which were always nearby and on the prowl. A good shepherd was ready to protect his sheep, or grab them from danger with their rod or staff. David acknowledges how God was his Good Shepherd and Protector. David found much comfort in God's constant presence.

### Discussion Questions:

1. What kind of valley did the shepherd sometimes have to walk his sheep?  
*(A valley of the shadow of death.)*
2. How could you feel safe if you had to walk through such a valley?  
*(If you were in the presence of the Good Shepherd.)*
3. We may be pretty safe from wild animals, but whom do we need protection from? *(The devil.)*
4. How can a rod and staff be a comfort to the sheep?  
*(They can be used to guide the sheep, fight off wild animals, and direct a sheep that has wandered astray.)*
5. David feared no evil because of God's presence. How can we have God's presence in our own life? *(By obeying His commandments and following Jesus)*

## Read John 10:1-18

While the kids listen to this passage as it is read, have them keep count of how many times they hear the word "sheep". (*Sheep is used 16 times in the NIV.*)

John 10:1-10 is the selected Gospel reading for Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Read Rev. Doug's 'devotional' on the Gospel and think about the references of shepherd and sheep and what is meant by the 'gate'.

<sup>9</sup> "I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved."

(*Parents: You may wish to paraphrase Rev. Doug's sermon in your own words for your kids.*)

While we often think of Jesus being the Good Shepherd of Psalm 23, in today's Gospel reading he says "***I am the gate,***" the barrier between right and wrong, between the righteous and those who want to steal and kill God's sheep.

He is the gate who divides the realm of life from that of death. In his life teachings, those who are kept out are usually those who thought they were already well in: authorities, hypocrites, religious holy-rollers etc. Those whom he keeps in are those that the aforementioned assumed didn't deserve to get in: a Samaritan woman, a leper, a prostitute, the poor, the sick, the lame, and the blind.

But Jesus isn't just a gate to keep out and keep in, isn't simply a barrier between righteous and non-righteous, he is also a threshold, a passage leading to new life. Jesus once said: "***live in the world, but not as the world lives,***" but he never said "***abandon the world***".<sup>\*1</sup>

### Discussion Questions:

1. Who did Jesus say He was? (*The Good Shepherd.*)
2. Who did Jesus lay down His life for? (*His sheep, you and me.*)
3. Jesus compares Himself to a gate for the sheep. A gate to where? (*The only way to Salvation.*)
4. What happens to someone who enters through the gate of Jesus? (*They are saved.*)
5. What other characters are named in this passage, and what did they do? (*Wolf, stranger, shepherd, gate keeper, hired hand, robber, thief, Father.*)? (*Safe, loved, well fed, clean, happy, welcome.*)

### SUMMARY:

Jesus is our Lord and Shepherd. He laid down his life to save us from the valley of the shadow of death. If we follow Him, we are counted as one of His sheep. The fear of sin cannot overcome us, because Jesus already laid down His own life for our sins. When we enter through the gate of Jesus, and follow in His paths, we can be sure that He will protect us from the evil one. Even when we stray, He will take His staff to grab us and bring us back to him. Now that is a great comfort!

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\*1 This section is from Rev. Doug Scott's May 3, 2020 Devotional

## ACTIVITIES:

- **Psalm 23** (Crossword Puzzle)
- **Shepherd's Staff** (Craft)

*Examples of what can be added to the staff:*

### Different Names of Jesus

Redeemer (Psalm 19)  
The True Vine (John 15:5)  
Living Water (John 4:10)  
Alpha and Omega (Rev. 22:15)  
Bread of Life (John 6:35)  
Creator (John 1:3)  
Wonderful Counselor (Isaiah 9:6)  
Friend, Potter, Physician  
Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)  
Living Way (Hebrews 10:20)  
Savior (Luke 2:11)

### How We can let Jesus be our Shepherd

Read the Bible  
Sing Praises  
Choose good friends  
Be careful what I watch on TV  
Obey parents and teachers  
Pray  
Go to church  
Do good deeds

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<https://www.kidssundayschool.com/gradeschool/lessons/old-testament/psalm-23/god-is-with-me>