



KK '19 DQT Devo: Tuesday/Friday

"The Good Shepherd"

Lesson Passages:

Psalm 23:1-4; John 10:7-18, 25-29



Lesson Focus: The children will learn that we as sheep need Jesus the good shepherd to provide, lead, protect, and save us.

Helping Study Passages: I Samuel 16:10-13, 19; 17:14-15, 34-37

Lesson Intro: The shepherd game. Have one child use the pool noodle to heard the beach ball sheep as quick as possible. Give them a time limit. If they accomplish the task they win a prize. Repeat the game with another contestant if time allows. See who can make the clearest and best sheep sound. Pick a winner if you have a clear winner. Perhaps do the game at the end if you need to. Ask the kids what they know about shepherds. What do they think their job looks like? What do they think the shepherds in Bible times had to do? What do they think qualify you as a good shepherd? (*Allow the kids to answer, but if it gets out of hand answer yourself.*)

Story Outline

- I. The Provision from the Shepherd. Psalm 23:1-2
- II. The Path for the Sheep. Psalm 23:3
- III. The Protection for the Sheep. Psalm 23:4
- IV. Jesus the Good Shepherd. John 10:11-18
- V. Jesus the Leader of the Sheep. John 10:25-27
- VI. Jesus the Assurance for the Sheep. John 10:28-29

Lesson Overview

The lesson will be focused on two main things the shepherd, and the sheep. In psalm 23 king David refers to the Lord as his shepherd. King David had once been the shepherd of the sheep his father owned. He had experience in knowing what a good shepherd did. From that experience he lists all that the Lord has provided for him. Later in history Jesus taught the people using the illustration of a shepherd. He told the people he was the good shepherd. Jesus explained and listed all the things He provided and would give for His sheep.

Breaking down the Lesson

- **Story Introduction:** Use these passages as a short introductory story I Samuel 16:10-13, 19; 17:14-15, 34-37. King David wrote the 23rd psalm. He spoke of the Lord as his shepherd. King David knew all about being a shepherd. Before he became king over Israel he had been the shepherd over the sheep his dad had. When God had sent Samuel the prophet to anoint (pick) the new king, David had not been present with his brothers. They had to go and get David from the job he usually did, taking care of the sheep of his father. The Bible even gives some insight on what kind of a shepherd King David had been. King David let the king before him know some of his experience as shepherd. King David mentioned that as a shepherd he had chased down lions and bears that had taken his sheep. God brought him out of taking sheep to be anointed as king. King David had been a very good shepherd and it is from what he already knew about shepherding that he was able to describe the Lord as his shepherd. Many years later when Jesus walked the earth He spoke of being the good shepherd. He

made many references to shepherding, sheep, and being the good shepherd. He used these references as illustrations of who He was and what He offered to His sheep.

- **Lesson Focus:** The lesson focus will be on the lists of things that both David and Jesus mention of the shepherd and sheep. You will describe to the children all that is found in our God and Savior Jesus Christ as the good shepherd.

Psalm 23

- ¹ *The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack. (Psalm 23:1)*

The first verse notes two things that King David wanted people to know. First the Lord was his Shepherd. King David was the leader of a nation, but when it came to himself he allowed the Lord to lead him as his shepherd. Second, King David found that with the Lord as his shepherd he did not have need of anything. The Lord his shepherd provided for him. When we allow God to lead us and we follow Him as our shepherd we too can learn that He will provide all things for us in life.

- ² *He lets me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. (Psalm 23:2)*

King David then begins to list the provision that the Lord makes for him as his shepherd. He begins with the basic needs. The shepherd had the task to lead the sheep where there was food and water. King David describes that where the Lord led him was a place of green pastures. God provided for King David rest and nourishment. King David also mention that the Lord led him besides still waters. It is said that sheep cannot drink from water that is in movement like rivers or streams because they are afraid of it. King David describes that the Lord knew just what he needed and led him to still waters where he could drink. When we allow the Lord to be our leader, our shepherd, He always leads us to what we need. The Lord cares for us not just with basic food and water as we need but with our need in life. We need Him, and His Word so that we can grow to be what He has planned for us.

- ³ *He renews my life [soul, strength]; He leads me along the right paths for His name's sake. (Psalm 23:3)*

King David describes the path that the Lord his shepherd leads him in. In God, King David had found a shepherd who would pick him up in life. He describes the Lord his Shepherd as the leader who could restore or renew his life. The Lord is a shepherd who can pick us up when we are down. King David notes that the Lord leads him in the right path for the sake of His own name. This allows us to see that the Lord our shepherd wants what is best for us. The reason the Lord leads in the right path is not because we are good but because He is good, for the sake of His own name. This allows us to see that He always will want what is best for His own name sake.

- ⁴ *Even when I go through the darkest valley, I fear no danger, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff—they comfort me. (Psalm 23:4)*

King David then describes the protection he had found in the Lord as his shepherd. He first describes the circumstances he trusts his shepherd in. He mentions that although King David could find himself in the middle of a horrible situation he does not fear. King David knew and understood that the Lord God his shepherd was with him not matter what or where he was in life. Not only was the Lord there as his shepherd but at his protector as well. King David describes that the Lord had His rod and staff. Some people make a distinction between these. The rod as a sort of a club looking weapon for protection. The staff was there to keep the sheep in line and pull them out of any trouble. When the Lord is our shepherd we know He has all that is needed to pull us out of trouble and to keep any trouble away. Even if we end up in the middle of trouble He is with us to guard us on through to the other side of it.

John 10:7-18, 25-29

- ¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and doesn’t own the sheep, leaves them and runs away when he sees a wolf coming. The wolf then snatches and scatters them. ¹³ This happens because he is a hired man and doesn’t care about the sheep. ¹⁴ “I am the good shepherd. I know My own sheep, and they know Me, ¹⁵ as the Father knows Me, and I know the Father. I lay down My life for the sheep. ¹⁶ But I have other sheep that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will listen to My voice. Then there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ This is why the Father loves Me, because I am laying down My life so I may take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down on My own. I have the right to lay it down, and I have the right to take it up again. I have received this command from My Father.”

Jesus uses the illustration of what a shepherd does to teach the people what He was here to do. He called Himself the good shepherd. He elaborates on that by adding that a good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired person to who the sheep do not belong does not care for the sheep. These people make bad shepherds because when danger comes they will not risk it all to save the sheep. Jesus uses a wolf as the attacker who the hired shepherd allows to destroy his sheep. Jesus then makes it clear that He is the good shepherd. He cares and know His sheep who know Him. God the Father knows that Jesus is the good shepherd because He will give His life for the sheep. Jesus, the good shepherd, was willing to give His life though He had the power to remain alive. But it was because He loved His sheep that He would give His life and then take it back again, rise again the third day.

In Jesus we have a good shepherd. A shepherd who cares for us so much that He gave His life for us. Jesus did this willingly and out of love to save us from the eternal consequence and danger of sin. He knows us and our need of Him. But in order to become part of His sheep we must first believe in Him as our Savior. Sin makes us fall short of the glory of God. But Jesus gave His life to make the payment for our sin. He took the punishment we deserved so that we could be with Him and become of His sheep. He died, was buried, and rose again the third day to save us and make us part of His sheep. We can choose to believe and trust in Him or walk away in our sin.

- ²⁵ “I did tell you and you don’t believe,” Jesus answered them. “The works that I do in My Father’s name testify about Me. ²⁶ But you don’t believe because you are not My sheep. ²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, I know them, and they follow Me.

Jesus later would continue with the sheep and shepherd illustration. Jesus stated that these Jewish leaders were not of His sheep because they refused to believe in Him. They would not believe His Word or the miracles which He had performed.

Those who belong to Jesus and have believed in Him hear what He says. All who have trusted in Jesus as their Savior and allow Jesus to lead them hear His instructions. Jesus has a personal relationship with His sheep and He knows them. Those who trust in Jesus follow where He leads.

If we have trusted in Jesus we are His sheep. We hear what He teaches us and where He leads us. We know Him and He knows us. We follow Jesus wherever He takes us. We follow in what we do, where we go, and how we live. He is our good shepherd.

- ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish —ever! No one will snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all. No one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.

Jesus then describes how great a shepherd He is. Jesus gives His sheep eternal life and promises them that they will never ever lose their eternal life. He takes care of His sheep so well that there is no one who can take them away from Him. Not only does He secure His sheep but He has God the Father there as well with Him. No one is greater than Him and no one can take them from God the Father either.

Jesus is the good shepherd who not only offers us salvation but promises to keep it. He promises that once we have become His sheep and He has given us eternal life we will never

perish. He is such a good shepherd that no one can take us out of His hand. He has secured us Himself and has God the Father holding on to us as well. No one can take away what the eternal life which Jesus paid for with His own life.

- **Lesson Conclusion:** The Bible is clear that the Lord is the shepherd that we need. He is the shepherd that want to provide for us, show us the path, and protects us. The only way we can become part of His sheep is through Jesus the good shepherd. Jesus laid down His life in order to provide eternal life for His sheep. Those who trust in Him hear His voice and follow His instruction. Jesus not only promises us eternal life but as shepherd He promises that no one can take it from us. When He becomes our shepherd we are in His hand and no one can snatch us away from Him. God the Father has us in total security of the life that Jesus has provided. Will you allow Him to be your shepherd? To save you and give you eternal life? If you have already trusted in Him are you allowing Him to lead you to all that He has promised you. He wants to lead you to green pasture, still water, and through the right path. What will you do? Will you allow the Lord to lead you?