

Lesson 6: Comfort

Today's Bible Story

Like a hymnal we might use in worship, the Book of Psalms in the Bible is a collection of songs that the people of Israel used to worship God. King David was a musician and singer; he wrote many of the psalms that are found in the Bible. He described his own experience of how God was in his life, in both good times and bad.

Psalms 23 is one of David's most famous. In this psalm, David remembered what it was like when he was a boy taking care of sheep. David said that human beings are like sheep, and that God is the shepherd who takes care of us. He wrote:

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

he makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness

for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the

shadow of death, I fear no evil, for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life, and I shall

dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalms 23 reminds us that God is always with us, and that we can always trust in the Lord to care for us.



From Psalm 23

Bible Rhyme

My Shepherd is the Lord of all.

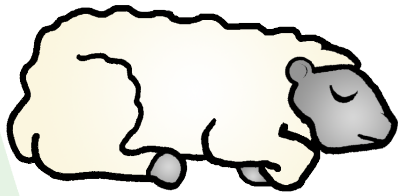
He leads me through the grasses tall.

He brings me by the waters calm,
protecting me from every harm.

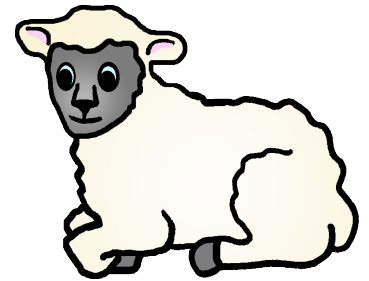
I need not fear the scary place
when I see his smiling face,
for always by my side he'll be;
his rod and staff, they comfort me.

He gives me all I need and more;
he will my troubled soul restore.
All my days he'll stay with me,
and in his house I'll always be.

In the Bible, one of the ways God describes himself is with the image of a shepherd. Look up the following Bible verses, and make note of what the shepherd does. Write a short description of the shepherd's function inside the ovals:



a) Psalm 23:1-4



b) Ezekiel 34:17-22

c) Matthew 18:10-14

d) John 10:11-15

e) John 10:27-30

Shepherds often carried a special kind of staff known as a crook. A crook is a long stick with a hook on the end. Shepherds use a crook to:

- 1) **GUIDE** the sheep in the way they should go:
They direct and guide the sheep with the staff.
- 2) **PROTECT** the sheep from wild animals:
They use the staff to fight off predators and attackers.
- 3) **RESCUE** and draw the sheep with the hook:
They use the hook to grab sheep and pull them to safety.

If you turn a shepherd's staff upside down, what letter of the alphabet does it look like?

Who is our Good Shepherd?

Hint: His name starts with this same letter!

What are some of the many ways that God takes care of us?
Name some things God has done for you that you are especially thankful for!