

E28. Psalm 23

Psalm 23:1-6

Memory Verse

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.”

--Psalm 23:1 (NKJV)

Bible Lesson

Message: *Keep your eyes on Jesus, the good shepherd.*

Psalm 23

The LORD *is* my shepherd;
I shall not want.

²He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.

³He restores my soul;
He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name’s sake.

⁴Yea, 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.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil;
My cup runs over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;
And I will dwell^a in the house of the LORD Forever.

Psalm 23 was written by David, who spent his early years as a shepherd. Sheep are completely dependent on the shepherd for protection, provision and guidance. In the New Testament, Jesus is referred to as the good shepherd (John 10:11) and even the Great Shepherd (1 Peter 5:4).

Just as Jesus is the good shepherd, we are his sheep and we are to follow obediently, knowing that He will lead us to the right places and in the right ways of God. When we allow Him to lead us, we find peace and contentment. Jesus knows exactly where to find the green pastures and beautiful waters that will restore us.

Talk About It

Option #1:

Play a game of “Simon Says” with your child. After you play a few rounds, talk together with your child about how easy or difficult it is sometimes to keep our eyes and ears on “Simon” in order to stay in the game. Talk with your child about how as Christians, our goal is to keep our eyes and ears turned toward Jesus, so that we can become more like Him. Remind your child that when we are successful at following Jesus’ example, we will know

what is right. When we start to look at or listen to other people, we can get confused and not always make good choices or do the right thing. Share with your child how important it is to take a few minutes each day to spend quiet time and prayer time with God so that we can stay focused on Him and Jesus' example for us.

Option #2:

Talk with your child and remind him that Jesus is our Lord and Shepherd. He gave His own life to save us from the evil one (Satan). If we follow Jesus, then we are considered one of His sheep and we have nothing to be afraid of if we stay close to Him.

Look up Isaiah 41:10 and read it together. Remind your child that they have nothing to be afraid of when God is on our side. He is always with us, and we can call out to Him at any time. Talk about it.

Option #3:

Talk with your child about "mercy". Look it up in the dictionary to see what it means. Then, share with your child a time when you gave mercy to someone, OR a time when someone showed mercy toward you. Talk with your child about how God is extraordinarily merciful toward us, and so he expects us to also extend mercy to others in the same way.

Look up Luke 6:27-28 in your Bible and read it together. Remind your child (again) that God wants us to extend mercy to others, and that when we do, we are also sharing the love of Jesus with them. What are some ways that you could extend mercy toward someone this week? Talk about it.