

THE **LORD**
IS MY **SHEPHERD**

LESSONS FROM THE 23RD PSALM



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“The Lord Is My Shepherd” - LESSON 1

“The Good Shepherd”

Main Focus:

God wants to be our Shepherd,
leading our lives



Power Verse:

“The Lord is my shepherd; I have all
that I need.” - Psalm 23:1



Watt's Up:

“I Will Follow The Lord, 'Cause
He's My Shepherd!”

LEADER'S INFO

When Jesus decided to choose an animal to represent human beings, He chose a sheep. The reason He chose a sheep is because sheep are helpless animals. They can't take care of themselves and by themselves they will just wander and be lost.

Sheep need a shepherd. Shepherds care for the sheep, lead them to green pastures, and care for their every need. Just like sheep need a shepherd, we need God to lead and guide us throughout this life.

In this lesson, the children will learn that God wants to be our Good Shepherd. He wants to lead us into the life He has planned for us. If we will follow Him, He will lead us into great things. We must choose to follow Him. The Good Shepherd won't force us, but, if we choose to follow, we will never be disappointed.



“The Spark” Intro Video

“The Good Shepherd”



“Watt's Up?” Teaching Video

Skittles teaches “Watt's Up?”



Character Skit

“Baaabara”



Offering Time



Game On!

“WOOL You Help The Sheep?”



Bible Story

“Parable Of Lost Sheep”



Power Verse Video

“The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.”

- Psalm 23:1



Call To Action

“The Good Shepherd”



Brain Drain

PowerPoint Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

God wants to be our Shepherd,
leading our lives



Power Verse:

“The Lord is my shepherd; I have all
that I need.” - Psalm 23:1



Watt’s Up:

“I Will Follow The Lord, ‘Cause
He’s My Shepherd!”

ORDER OF SERVICE

1 _____
by _____

2 _____
by _____

3 _____
by _____

4 _____
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5 _____
by _____

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by _____

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by _____

17 _____
by _____

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Call To Action

“The Good Shepherd”

Brain Drain

PowerPoint Review Game

Small Group Experience



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “Baaabara” (an energetic and eccentric girl who claims to have been raised by sheep. She knows all about sheep, but has little common sense. She loves the color white as well as anything that is wool or fluffy.)

BAAABARA: *(skips out onto the stage happily as her theme music from the DVD plays, then freezes wide-eyed when she sees all of the children)*

Leader: Ma'am? Are you okay?

BAAABARA: *(bleats “BAAAA” like a sheep, still staring, frozen)*

Leader: *(turns slowly to kids)* Did you hear that, or was it just me?

BAAABARA: *(shakes her head and snaps out of it, starts bleating “BAAAAA” to the leader excitedly)*

Leader: Ma'am, I think you've had a head injury. You need to lie down.

BAAABARA: *(shakes her head “no” smiling like the leader is silly, continues to bleat like a sheep. She then notices the confusion on the leader's face. She holds up her finger like “just a second” and clears her throat)* BAAAAH BAAAAAHeeeerrry sorry about that, it's been a while since I've had to speak human.

Leader: Speak human? What do you USUALLY speak?

BAAABARA: Sheep-ese! It's like Chinese, except..well..Sheepish!

Leader: *(laughs)* You're telling me that you can talk to sheep?

BAAABARA: Why of course I can! Some of my best friends are sheep! Even my PARENTS are sheep!

Leader: *(closes their eyes tightly and shakes their head like they can't believe what they just heard)* Hold up! This is getting WAAAAY too silly! How could your parents POSSIBLY be sheep?!

BAAABARA: Well not my REAL parents, of course. My ADOPTED parents are sheep! I was raised by sheep when I was a little girl! My name's BAAAbara!

Leader: Of course it is. So...um..Barbara--

BAAABARA: *(interrupts politely)* Um, it's BAAAbara.

Leader: That's what I said. Anyway, what exactly are you doing here?

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CHARACTER SKIT

(continued)

BAAABARA: Well, I was skipping through the fields looking for some nice flowers to eat for breakfast and I think I got lost. But, I guess that’s what happens when you don’t have a shepherd to follow.

Leader: Don’t have a shepherd to follow?? Hey! Today we’re talking about how WE need a shepherd!

BAAABARA: Everyone needs a Shepherd! They take care of you and protect you from those terrible mean wolves! Those wolves are stinky and smelly and hairy and scary...(starts getting frantic, yells frustratedly then starts “BAAAAAH”ing like crazy)

Leader: WHOAH WHOAH WHOAH! Calm down! I don’t know what you’re talking about but WE are talking about GOD being our shepherd!

BAAABARA: GOD IS A SHEPHERD? I hope he doesn’t have one of those sheepdogs! Those things are smellier than the wolves and they bite at your legs (gets on her knees and starts to demonstrate)!

Leader: NOOOOOO! Boys and girls, God definitely does NOT have a large smelly dog that is going to bite your legs. God LOVES us and wants to help guide us through life!

BAAABARA: But I can guide myself JUST FINE!

Leader: You just told me that you got yourself lost looking for BREAKFAST! When you’re guided by God you don’t have to worry about getting lost in life! When we make God our Shepherd he can provide us with EVERYTHING we need! All we have to do is decide to follow Him.

BAAABARA: Wow...that sounds WAY better than the last shepherd I had. Is it okay if I hang around and hear some more about this?

Leader: Sure!

BAAABARA: Awesome! I’ll see you later everybody! As my Mama-sheep used to always say...(baaaaas loudly)

Leader: What does that mean?

BAAABARA: The grass may be greener on the other side, but it doesn’t taste nearly as good. BAAAAAA-bye, everybody!

(waves goodbye and skips happily as she exits while “Baaabara’s Theme” video plays from the DVD)



GAME ON!

“Wool You Help The Sheep?”

Items Needed For Game:

Six cotton balls; roll of sticky Tape; blindfold; sheep printout (*provided*)

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Preparation:

Choose three boys and three girls to participate in this game. Print the “Sheep Printout” that is provided on the Data Disc in the PowerPoint Presentation (the graphic immediately following the game title).

.....

How To Play:

Hang the “sheep printout” on the wall. Let the children know that the sheep is missing a piece of her wool. We need to get the wool back on the sheep. “Wool” you help the sheep get her wool back on?

One at a time, blindfold the children and give them a cotton ball with some sticky tape on it. They must walk over to the sheep and attempt (without peaking) to put their cotton ball as close to the X as possible. Once they place their “wool” on the sheep, remove it and mark the player’s initials on the paper at the exact spot they placed their wool.

Once each contestant has attempted, the person whose initials are closest to the X is declared the winner!



Bible Story

“Parable Of Lost Sheep”

Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; the PowerPoint presentation for Lesson 1; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the story in Luke 15:1-7; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

Today’s Bible Story is actually a story that Jesus told to his disciples. It’s called a parable. A parable is a story about things that happen on Earth, but they have a special Heavenly meaning.

(*show pic*) In this parable, Jesus tells of a shepherd who had a hundred sheep. Every morning he took them from the fold, a place where sheep stay at night, on a hillside and led them to new, fresh pastures. The sheep loved to roam and eat all of the lush grass. Later in the day, the shepherd would take them to a quiet stream, or, if there wasn’t any stream nearby, he would draw water from a well for them to drink. At night the shepherd took the sheep back to the fold. Everyday the sheep followed the shepherd wherever he took them. He called them by name and they came to him. Every night he would count them to make sure they were all there.



One night, the shepherd discovered something terrible. He was supposed to have 100 sheep, but he discovered that there were only 99 sheep in the fold. That meant one little sheep was missing. Somehow it had strayed away and become lost. If the shepherd left it out there and didn’t go look for it, it would most likely be killed by some wild animals.



Since the shepherd knew that the sheep in the fold were protected by the gate, he left the other 99 sheep and went to find the one lost sheep. (*show pic*) He went searching through the dark, stormy night. He looked and looked in all of the places where he had led the sheep earlier in the day. It was a dangerous task, but the shepherd knew that this sheep was lost and would never find its way home.



(*show pic*) Suddenly, he looked in the distance and saw the lost sheep. It was stuck in a bush and could not get free. The shepherd freed the sheep, (*show pic*) then he put the little sheep on his shoulder and carried it back to the fold. He did not get mad at the sheep and punish it for running away. Instead, he rejoiced and was very happy that he had found the little sheep.

In this parable, the shepherd represents God. The sheep represent you, me, and all people. Jesus was showing the disciples that God cares for us so much that He is willing to do whatever it takes to rescue us from the sin of this world. He wants to be our shepherd and lead us in the life that He wants for us. In your Bible Lesson today, you are going to learn how God is our Good Shepherd.



Call To Action

“The Good Shepherd”

Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; Shepherd’s crook

Preparation:

Open the PowerPoint presentation on the Data Disc titled “Lesson One,” begin with the slide titled “The Good Shepherd”

The Message: *(title slide)*



Today, we began a new series called “The Lord Is My Shepherd.” In this series, we are looking at every single verse in one of the most famous chapters in the Bible - Psalm 23. Today’s verse says, “The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.” When you think of God being a Shepherd, that might seem very strange to you. You might find it strange that God refers to Himself as a Shepherd, and you might find it even stranger that God refers to us as His sheep. *(hold up the Shepherd’s crook as you talk)*

There is a very good reason that the Bible uses this illustration. Several places in the Bible, God refers to Himself as “The Good Shepherd.” Just like a shepherd leads, guides, and takes care of his sheep, God does the same for all of His children. You see, God is not just A shepherd...

God Wants To Be MY Shepherd *(slide)*



God created you. He has amazing plans for you. He wants to be YOUR Shepherd. He wants to be the one you follow through life. He knows everything about you. He knows what you need, and...

When I Follow God, He Gives Me All That I Need *(slide)*



Just like a sheep follows the shepherd to all of the best places to eat, sleep, and live, God will lead you to all the best things in this life. He gives you everything that you need. That’s why our first verse says, “The Lord is my Shepherd, I have all that I need.” When God is your shepherd, you don’t ever have to worry about the things you need. God provides everything for His sheep. Isn’t that awesome?

You might be saying, “Well, I had no idea that God wanted to be MY Shepherd. I want Him to provide for me! I want Him to lead me and guide me into the best places in life so that I have all that I want! How do I make sure this happens?” Well, I am so glad you asked. If you want be able to say with confidence, “The Lord is MY Shepherd, I have all that I need,” then you need to understand one thing...

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Call To Action *(Continued)*

I Must Choose To Make God My Shepherd *(slide)*

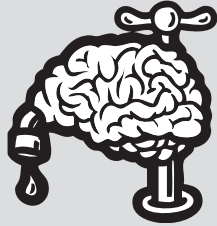


All you have to do is choose to follow the Lord as YOUR Shepherd. You can simply pray and talk to Him. Tell Him, “God, I thank You that You are The Good Shepherd. I recognize my need for a Shepherd. I don’t want to wander through life. I want to follow Your plan for my life. I want You to provide all that I need. I trust You, God.” It’s as simple as that.

God is a Good Shepherd. He will not FORCE you to follow Him. If you choose to follow Him, however, You will follow Him into the greatest adventure of your life. You will follow Him into the best things in life. After all, He created you. He knows every detail about you. He wants to bless you, protect you, and be YOUR Shepherd.

ALTAR RESPONSE: *(play soft music)*

Allow the children who have not accepted Christ as their Savior an opportunity to choose to follow The Good Shepherd. Remind them that God wants them to CHOOSE to follow Him. He will love them and provide for them so that they can say, “The Lord is MY Shepherd, I have all that I need.”



BRAIN DRAIN

Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; The DVD

Preparation:

Play the “Brain Drain” Video Intro off the DVD; Open the PowerPoint presentation on the Data Disc titled “Lesson One,” begin with the slide titled “Brain Drain”; there is a slide for each question

1. Watt’s Up today?

Answer: “I Will Follow The Lord, ‘Cause He’s My Shepherd!”

2. What chapter in the Bible are we learning from in this series?

Answer: Psalm 23

3. What animal does God compare His children to?

Answer: sheep

4. How many sheep did the Shepherd own in today’s Bible Story?

Answer: 100

5. What did he do when he noticed one of his sheep was missing?

Answer: left the other 99 and went to find the one sheep

6. Who did the shepherd in the story represent?

Answer: God

7. According to our lesson today, “God Wants To Be _____ Shepherd.”

Answer: MY

8. According to our lesson today, “When I Follow God, He Gives Me _____.”

Answer: All I Need

9. According to our lesson today, “I Must _____ To Make God My Shepherd.”

Answer: Choose

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: Psalm 23:1

Small Group Experience

LESSON 1 - "The Good Shepherd"



Watt's Up:

"I Will Follow The Lord, 'Cause He's My Shepherd!"



Power Verse:

"The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need."

- Psalm 23:1

Retelling The Bible Story

SUPPLY LIST:

* Cotton Balls

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins hide cotton balls in various places throughout your meeting area. Once small group begins read the Bible story from the lesson excerpt. Every time you say the word sheep, pause and allow the kids to look for the hidden cotton balls. Tell them that they should only pick up one cotton ball per turn. Make sure the kids hang on to their collection of cotton balls, they will use them again!

Say - "Hey guys! I have missed you so BAAAA-dly since last week! I know, goofy sheep joke, but I just couldn't help myself. I am so excited about the start of our new series, "The Lord Is My Shepherd." It's going to be great! I gathered some supplies for our Bible story review, but they have gone missing. Those sneaky cotton balls have wandered off and I need your help to find them. I am going to read our Bible story. Every time you hear me say the word SHEEP, you should stand and go look for one lost cotton ball. Bring it back with you and hold onto it because you will use the cotton balls again."

Read the Bible Story Aloud...

Read - "Jesus tells of a shepherd who had one hundred sheep...**PAUSE**

Every morning he led them to new fresh pastures. They loved to roam and eat all the lush grass. Later in the day the shepherd would take them to have a drink of cool water. At night the shepherd took the sheep...

PAUSE... back to a safe place to sleep. Every day the sheep...**PAUSE**...followed the shepherd wherever he took them. He called them by name and they came to him. Every night he would count them to make sure they were all there.

One night the shepherd discovered something terrible. He was supposed to have one hundred sheep...

PAUSE...but he only had ninety nine. That meant one little sheep...**PAUSE**... had gone missing. Somehow it strayed away and became lost. If the shepherd left it in the wilderness alone it would probably be killed by wild animals.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

The shepherd went out into the dark and stormy night searching for his lost sheep...**PAUSE**...He looked and looked in all of the places where they had been earlier that day. It was a dangerous task but he knew he must find his lost lamb.

Suddenly he looked in the distance and saw the lost sheep...**PAUSE**... It was stuck in a bush and could not get free. The shepherd came to the rescue. He carried the little sheep...**PAUSE**...all the way back until it was safe with the others. The shepherd rejoiced!”

Say - “Great job finding the lost cotton balls! We will definitely be saying the word sheep a lot during this lesson, but you don’t have to go search for cotton anymore.”

Ask - Why do you think it is important for sheep to follow a shepherd?

Ask - Are we like sheep? Do we need a shepherd to follow?

Game/Activity

SUPPLY LIST:

- * “Sylvester Sheep” print piece, one per team (This will be best if printed on card stock)
- * Glue, one stick or bottle for each team
- * Cotton Balls

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Group kids together in teams. Give each group a Sylvester Sheep print out, glue, and some extra cotton balls. Have the team members combine the cotton balls they collected during Bible story review. They will use them to glue on their Sylvester Sheep picture. The extra cotton balls can be used to supplement as needed. Ask the review questions. If a team thinks they know the answer they should raise their hand and say, “Baa!” For each correct answer allow the team to glue one cotton ball on their picture. The team with the most cotton balls at the end wins.

Say - “Sylvester sheep is really thankful that you found his missing wool. Now he needs you to re-attach the wool! I am going to ask some review questions. If your team thinks you know the answer raise your hand and say, “Baa!” If you answer correctly you get to glue one cotton ball to Sylvester Sheep. The team who’s Sylvester ends up with the most wool wins!”

Q. A story about things that happen on Earth but have a special heavenly meaning is called what?

A. Parable

Q. A person who takes care of sheep is called?

A. Shepherd

Q. True or False, the shepherd in our story had 100 chickens?

A. False

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- Q. What happened to one of the sheep?
A. It wandered off from the others and got lost
- Q. What did Baaarbara say is, “smellier than wolves and will bite your legs?”
A. Sheepdog
- Q. True or False, The shepherd went out early in the morning to look for his lost sheep?
A. False
- Q. Where did the shepherd finally find his lost sheep?
A. Stuck in a bush
- Q. True or False, The Shepherd did not punish the sheep for wandering away from the flock?
A. True
- Q. What did the shepherd do when he found the lost sheep?
A. Put the sheep on his shoulders, carried it home, and rejoiced
- Q. Who wants to be our shepherd?
A. God

Group Sharing

SUPPLY LIST:

- * “Follow” print piece, one per student (This will be best if printed on card stock)
- * Pens, pencils, or markers
- * Cotton balls
- * Glue, several bottles or sticks for the group to share

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Divide the large group into small groups. The groups should read the power verse at the bottom of their Follow print piece and talk with one another about what it means to them. Have them write their answers on their Follow page. They also need to glue cotton balls to the letter F. After they’ve had a few minutes to complete their tasks begin group sharing time.

Say - “I am giving each of you a piece of paper which says the word Follow, the Power Verse, and has several blank lines. First things first! I want you to glue some cotton balls to the letter F.”

-Allow the groups time to complete this task-

Say - “At the bottom of the page are the words of your power verse. It says, ‘The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.’ Psalm 23:1”

Ask - What does that verse mean to you? How does following our Good Shepherd affect your life? Take a few minutes with your group and discuss these questions. Write your answers in the blanks on your page.

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Ask - Would anyone like to share what they wrote?

Say - “How cool to know that God WANTS to be our shepherd! He had a plan in mind before he ever created you. Plans to protect you, care for you, and guide you!”

Prayer Time

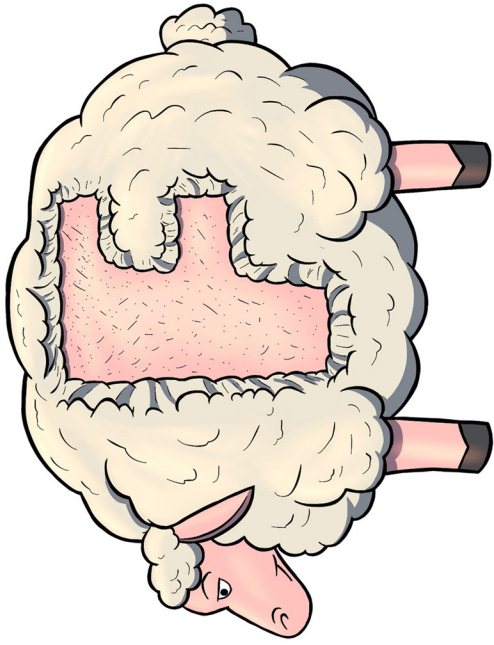
Say - “We are so blessed to have a God who chooses to be our shepherd. Let’s take time and thank Him for choosing us and for being our Good Shepherd!” (PRAY)

Closing

Say - “The shepherd in our story cared so much for his sheep that he was willing to risk everything to bring him home safely! He was a good shepherd who cared for his sheep more than anything else. You have a good shepherd who gave everything to bring you home safely. God gave his son Jesus so that you could have a heavenly home. God is a good shepherd; he cares for you more than anything else. Choose to follow him today, and every day! Good job sheep people. Week one is a wrap! I will see you all next week.”

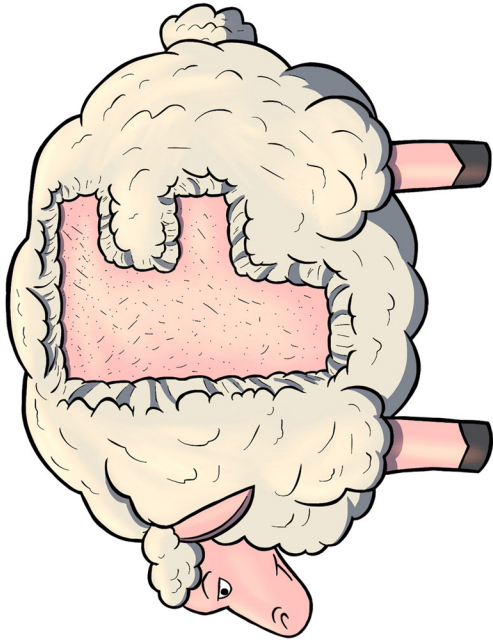


Sylvester Sheep



O I I O W

**“The Lord is My Shepherd, I have
all that I need.” - Psalm 23:1**



O I I O W

**“The Lord is My Shepherd, I have
all that I need.” - Psalm 23:1**

Family Devotion

“The Good Shepherd”



Watt's Up:

“I Will Follow The Lord, ‘Cause He’s My Shepherd!”



Power Verse:

“The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.” - **Psalm 23:1**

This week we start a new series “The Good Shepherd.” We will spend the next few weeks learning how God is the Shepherd who longs to take care of His sheep - Us!

Read:

Luke 15:1-7

Ask:

- How many sheep were there in the story? What happened to one of the sheep?
- What did the shepherd do for the one sheep that was missing?
- Who/What does the sheep represent?

Say:

In our Bible Story, one sheep was missing. The shepherd left 99 of his sheep to go find the one that was lost. We learn from this story that God, our shepherd, will do whatever it takes to find one of his sheep (us!) that is lost or missing.

Ask:

- What do you think it means for a person to be lost or missing?
- Why do you think God cares so much about one person who is missing?

Say:

That’s Right! God loves us so much, He will do whatever it takes to be in relationship with us. He wants to be in relationship with us! And when we are in relationship with Him, He will do whatever He can to take care of us and meet our needs. He is “The Good Shepherd” who wants to take care of us. He loves us and wants us to have everything we need!!!

Pray:

Pray for the members of your family that they will be in right relationship with God. Give each child an opportunity to respond to an opportunity to accept Him. Also, give each child a chance to share a need that maybe they need God to meet as their “Good Shepherd.”