

My Good Shepherd

Kevin Zook

*The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.
Psalm 23*

1. My Good Shepherd leads me
My Good Shepherd feeds me
My Good Shepherd keeps me safe
My Good Shepherd knows me
My Good Shepherd shows me
The paths that I should take

Refrain

My Good Shepherd cares for me
He watches while I sleep
Jesus is my shepherd
And I am His sheep
Jesus is my shepherd
And I am His sheep

[ending, after 3rd verse]

Yes, I am His sheep
I know I am His sheep

2. My Good Shepherd knows my name
My Good Shepherd heals my pain
When I fall and I get hurt
When I wander and I stray
I get lost and lose my way
‘til He finds me He will search

3. My Good Shepherd guides me
My Good Shepherd hides me
In His fold, away from harm
My Good Shepherd guards me
And when the path is hard for me
He carries me in His arms

My Good Shepherd

Teaching Resources

Background

Throughout scripture, we find metaphors that help us understand God's nature and our relation to Him. For example, God is described as a rock and fortress (Psalm 18:2), a mother hen (Psalm 91:4), and light (John 8:12). Perhaps the most frequent and best-known metaphor is God as shepherd and Jesus as the "Good Shepherd."

Lately, I've been thinking a lot about what it means for Jesus to be my shepherd – not just a shepherd, but my shepherd. And what does it mean for me to be His sheep – not just a sheep, but His sheep? I recently began thinking about all the ways that shepherds care for their sheep and all the ways that sheep are dependent on their shepherds. Key words started to flow and rhyme in my head, and I began hearing this song about "my Good Shepherd."

Sheep depend on the shepherd to meet their physical needs for food, water, and safety. But, more importantly, when we allow Jesus to be our Good Shepherd, He satisfies our spiritual needs. When we submit to the leadership of our Good Shepherd and place all our trust in Him, then we can whisper the words of Psalm 23 with quiet confidence and deep assurance,

***The Lord is my Shepherd;
I shall not want.***

I shall not want . . . for anything. I hope this song inspires you and your children to think of yourselves as sheep, under the watchful eye and care of the Good Shepherd, completely dependent on Him and trusting Him for all you need.

Preparing Activities

1. Brainstorm with your children all the ways that shepherds care for their sheep. What are sheep like (find some pictures)? How do they behave? What do they need to survive?
2. Read Psalm 23 with the children. Make a list of all the ways that God provides for His sheep.
3. Jesus is often depicted in art as a shepherd, surrounded by sheep and carrying a lamb in His arms. Find examples of this art work to share with the kids. Question to ask . . . why do artists so often create visual images of Jesus as a shepherd? Is Jesus literally a shepherd? Who really are the sheep in the images?

4. Read the “Parable of the Lost Sheep” (Luke 15:4-7 and Matthew 18:12-14). Show children images of artwork depicting Jesus finding and rescuing the lost sheep. Who really is the “lost sheep?” How do we become “lost?” How does Jesus search for us and find us? How does Jesus rescue us?

Extending Activities

1. Find images of sheepfolds that were built and used during Biblical times. Have children build their own model sheepfolds using sugar cubes, popsicle sticks, or other suitable materials. Provide sheep figurines to place in the folds.

2. Have kids design and create a wall (or bulletin board) mural of Psalm 23 (and related scriptures), depicting a shepherd caring for sheep.

3. Visit a farm that has sheep! Talk with the farmer about all the things he/she has to do to care for the sheep. Watch the sheep being sheared, fed, watered, etc. Hold a lamb! Help feed lambs with bottles! Experience first-hand how much work is required to keep sheep safe and healthy! What does that tell us about Jesus’ care for us as our Good Shepherd?

Related Scripture

- Luke 15:4-7
- Matthew 18:12-14
- John 10:11-15
- John 10:27-28
- I Peter 2:25
- Isaiah 40:11-16
- Isaiah 53:6
- Ezekial 34:11-12