

God is like a good shepherd

Psalm 23

Aim: to know that God cares for u and looks after us just like a good shepherd looks after their sheep



SpT2C



David, the shepherd boy turned king turned out to be a pretty good (not perfect) kind of king. He didn't always have it easy, though! Oh, no. Saul had it out for David and David was literally running for his life on more than one occasion as a whole army of men were looking to snuff him out.

Another string to David's bow was song writing! In fact many of the songs/poems written in the Old Testament book Psalms are attributed to him. Some of them are joyful songs of praise, whilst others are desperate cries for help.

Psalm 23 is probably one of the most famous and regularly recited Psalms. David uses the familiar imagery of a good shepherd; which he knew only too well, to describe the loving, faithful dedication of God, the king of kings, to each of his precious flock.



Create an obstacle course around the room leading to the story corner. Make some areas places to scramble over and under. Lay a blue strip of cloth for a stream with stepping stones across to your story telling area. Lead the group through.

I think a storm is coming. Lets' get through this place to find our story area where its lovely, warm and safe.

When the group is settled ready for the story stop to ask:

That was tricky, wasn't it? What did you see? Did you like going through the valley? I'm glad your grown ups helped you make it through! Thank goodness for the stepping stones across the stream.



Introduce the Psalm by letting the children know it was written by David. *David been going through some really tricky stuff. He wrote this song to let people know how good God is to him, even in tricky times.*

Read David's Song (pg 63)

Point to the obstacle course and the stream as you go through the story.



- *I wonder if God knows when I need help*
- *I wonder if I will remember to say thank you when others help me*

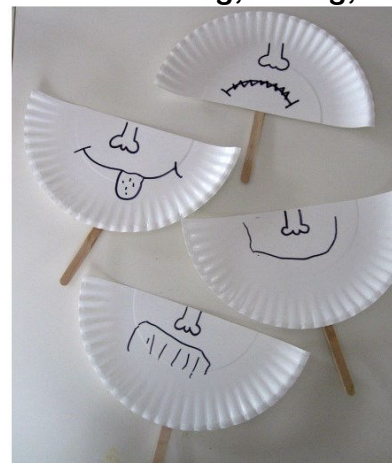


Encourage everyone to write or draw their own song to God like David



Make a 'God helps me!' display with the heading 'God helps me!'.
With their grown ups help encourage each child to create a picture of themselves doing something they are trying to learn i.e. walking, talking, stacking, puzzles, eating

- Happy Sad Masks - see picture.
Decide when to use the happy or sad masks for different things like
 - When we meet together
 - When we don't like our food
 - When we play with our toys
 - When its bedtime
- Use the obstacle course for role-play of the psalm.



Explain the actions for today's prayer

*Wherever we are God is with us
watching out for us.*

Lets say together : 'You are with me!'

Lets add some actions. When I say 'You', point up to Heaven. When I say 'Me', point to yourself. Join in with the words and actions every time I start to say You are with me!

Practice a couple of times together.

Dear God,

*Thank you that you watch over me
wherever I go.*

When its good you are with me.

When its tricky you are with me.

When I'm playing you are with me.

When I'm eating you are with me.

When I'm sleeping you are with me.

Thank you that wherever I am

YOU ARE WITH ME!

Amen



- We're gonna clap our hands
- Who's the king of the jungle
- He says that you're amazing



Try learning Psalm 23 with actions,
together: Watch this video: <https://youtu.be/wcMPA9TFGH4>