

LESSON 59

David the Psalmist

PSALM 23



BIBLE TRUTH

THERE IS REST IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 59)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20-30 MIN

Coloring Page 59

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

Sing the Psalm

Act Out Psalm 23

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60-75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson we will see that David was a writer of psalms (songs).

Ask the class:

What did David do before he was a king?

(David was a shepherd.)

What else did David do?

(See if anyone can remember that David was a singer and songwriter.)

Ask the class if they know what a worship song is. (A worship song is a song that praises God and gives him worship.)

Ask them if they know any worship songs. See if anyone can sing part of a worship song. (Sing a few verses of a simple children's worship song.)

Explain that today we are going to learn that David wrote songs. The Bible has a whole book of songs, and David wrote many of them. We call the songs psalms. Have the children repeat after you the word psalms and then ask them what a psalm is. Keep repeating until they know that a psalm is a song from the Bible.

Read the first verse of Psalm 23. Ask the class why David would say that the Lord is my shepherd. (Remind them that David was a shepherd himself.) Then review with the class what a shepherd does for his sheep. Help them to see that God cares for us just like a shepherd cares for his sheep.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 59, "David the Psalmist," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

What is a psalm?

(A psalm is a song. Bible psalms are songs about God. God instructed men to write the words down in the Bible, but the music has been forgotten.)

What is Psalm 23 about?

(The Lord is my shepherd.)

What does the Lord do as your shepherd?

(He leads me, comforts me, provides for me, and protects me.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

What is a shepherd?

(A shepherd is a person who takes care of sheep.)

Why do sheep need a shepherd?

(God created sheep to need help. They can't provide their own food, and they can't defend themselves against wolves.)

Why does David call God his shepherd?

(because God tenderly cares for David like a shepherd would care for his sheep)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

Where Is Jesus? _____

Please use the following comments connecting today’s lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God’s greater plan of redemption.

Passage: Psalm 23:6

There is only one way any of us could enjoy God’s mercy and live in heaven with him forever. God sent Jesus, his only Son, to die on the cross for our sin. Now all those who trust in Jesus are forgiven and get to live in the house of God (in heaven) forever. Jesus is the way God kept the promises David sang about. If we trust in Jesus we can live forever in heaven. One day, everyone who goes to heaven will meet David, the man who wrote Psalm 23.

When David sang, “The Lord is my shepherd,” he was exactly right. Hundreds of years later, when Jesus began his ministry, he said, “I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep” (John 10:14–15).

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

coloring page 59—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

What is the shepherd doing in the picture?

(He is protecting the sheep from the wolf.)

Are the sheep safe?

(Yes, the sheep are safe.)

What if one of the sheep wandered away from the flock on its own?

(The sheep would be in serious danger from the wolf.)

Since we are like sheep and God is our shepherd, do we need to be careful to keep from wandering?

(Yes, we need to draw near to the Lord for his protection. The devil and our own sin would like to attack us and lead us away from the safety of God's flock, the church.)

Sing the Psalm

Psalm 23 has been set to several modern melodies. If you know any of the melodies teach it to the children. If you don't know one, consider "The Lord Is" from the *Sovereign Grace Music CD, Psalms*. Also, consider singing other psalms that have been set to music. Sing several if time allows.

Act Out Psalm 23

Read the psalm and have the children act out the action. When it says, "He makes me lie down in green pastures," have the children lie down to rest. You could also break the class up into several groups and give each group a chance to perform the psalm, giving the other children a chance to be the audience.

PRAY **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

LESSON 59 - DAVID THE PSALMIST

