

**SMALL GROUP:**

Big Truth: The Lord is our _____, and He takes care of us.

CIRCLE THE ONE THAT STANDS OUT TO YOU MOST.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD...

Protects me when I am afraid

Gives me what I need

Helps me when I fall

Guides me on the right path

BECAUSE THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD...

I will trust Him when I feel afraid.

I will thank Him for what He gives me.

I will ask Him for help when I mess up.

I will follow His path this week

****REMEMBER TO GO TO THE BACKSIDE FOR YOUR PRAYER RESPONSE AFTER COMPLETING THE DAY'S ACTIVITY.****

Day 1 Our Shepherd - **READ:** Psalm 23:1.

Long ago, David wrote Psalm 23. Before David became a king, he was a shepherd who took care of sheep. Sheep need a shepherd because they can't take care of themselves very well. They get lost easily and can't protect themselves. So David used something he understood to describe God.

Fill in the blank from Psalm 23:

"THE LORD IS MY _____."

That means God leads, protects, and provides for us the way a shepherd cares for his sheep.

Psalm 23:1 is our memory verse for the week! Write it below. Then write it on a piece of paper and put it somewhere in your home so you can remember it throughout the week.

PSALM 23:1 _____

Where did you write your memory verse in your home? _____

Day 2 The Shepherd Provides - **READ:** Psalm 23:2.

A good shepherd makes sure his sheep have grass to eat and water to drink. Sheep will not lie down and rest unless they feel safe and have everything they need. So the shepherd leads them to green pastures and quiet water. God cares for us in the same way. He knows what we need.

Circle the things sheep need to live:

GRASS

WATER

CANDY

SHELTER

SAFETY

SHEPHERD

What are some ways God takes care of you and your family?



Day 3 The Shepherd Restores - READ: Psalm 23:3.

Sometimes sheep fall over on their backs and cannot stand up again. This is called a cast sheep. When a sheep is cast, it cannot fix the problem by itself. It needs the shepherd to come help it stand again. **Scan the QR code above to watch a video of a shepherd helping a sheep that has fallen over.** After the sheep is lifted up, it even stumbles a little before it can walk again. That is what it means when Psalm 23 says, **"He restores my soul."** Sometimes we fall too. We make mistakes. We feel tired or discouraged. But the Good Shepherd helps us stand again.

Write one way God helps you when you feel stuck, discouraged, or struggling.

Discuss with your family: When have you needed help standing back up after something hard?

Day 4 Following the Shepherd - READ: John 10:27.

Sheep learn to recognize their shepherd's voice. When the shepherd calls, they follow him. Jesus said people who belong to Him are like sheep who follow their shepherd. We follow Jesus when we listen to His voice and obey what He teaches.

How do we learn to recognize the Shepherd's voice? _____
(read the Bible, go to church, talk to trusted people who love God)

God has also given you people who help you learn to hear and follow His voice. This can be parents, friends, small group leaders, trusted adults.

Who is someone that comes to mind that can help you hear and learn the Shepherd's voice? _____

Read through Psalm 23:1-3 one more time. What part do you find hardest to believe right now? _____

Memory Verse Reminder: Psalm 23:1 - "The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need."

PRAYER RESPONSE

Day 1 Write two reasons sheep need a shepherd: _____

Pray: "God, thank You for caring for me like a shepherd cares for his sheep."

Day 2 Complete the Prayer with specific ways God has taken care of you:

Pray: "God, thank You for giving me _____."

Day 3 Complete the prayer with specific ways God has helped you:

Pray: "Jesus, thank You for helping me by _____."

Day 4 Complete the prayer with people who came to mind:

Pray: "Jesus, help me listen to Your voice and follow You. Thank you for people like _____ who help me follow You."