



Week 1 2's 3's 9:45

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Cares for Us

SCRIPTURE: [Psalm 23](#)

WORD OF WONDER: [From Psalm 139:14](#)

[Psalm 23](#) could be the most famous of David's compositions. Take a moment to read it, even if the words are familiar.

David probably used imagery of his experience as a shepherd while writing this psalm. But unless you live in a verdant countryside, you probably don't see shepherds leading sheep from place to place.

Unlike their reputation, sheep are intelligent. They have an impressive memory, recognizing other sheep and familiar humans. This is crucial to the survival of these domesticated animals. Sheep are also dependent on their caretakers.

In David's imagination, his previous role is reversed. He becomes a sheep under the care of God—an ideal shepherd. God plans for the physical needs of those in His care. Yet David admits that God leads the sheep into dangerous places. Just as a human shepherd must bring the sheep through treacherous paths, God guides and protects His sheep on a hazardous road. God's care is not superficial.

In the same way, the life of faith is not free of risk. God has a destination in mind, a place of abundance and redemption. God cares so much for His sheep that He will bring them into dark places, which leads to future triumph. Have you felt like you are under the watchful care of God this week? If you are finding yourself in dark places, have you stayed close to your shepherd?

—**Jason Hitchcock**

Theology Editor and Ministry Volunteer

Contributor to Wonder Ink

Activity: Search for the Sheep

SUPPLIES: bin, green Easter grass or crinkle paper, small toy animals (including one sheep)

Place green Easter grass or crinkle paper in a bin, along with a variety of small toy animals. Include one sheep.

Shepherds take care of sheep. If a sheep gets lost, it's the shepherd's job to find it. Can you help find a sheep?

Encourage kids to be shepherds by searching through the grass until they find the sheep. You can hide the sheep multiple times to give different kids a chance to find it.

You helped take care of the sheep by finding it. This reminds us of God's big story today and how God takes care of us.

Our Wonder Truth today is: GOD CARES FOR US.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

GOD—*Point up.*

CARES FOR—*Use both arms to give yourself a hug.*

US—*Point to yourself.*

Worship

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from the [Wonderfully Made Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Today we'll learn about how God is our shepherd and how He cares for us. He leads us, guides us, and provides everything we need. Let's sing about the Lord, our shepherd and praise Him for taking such good care of us.

Play songs from the [Wonderfully Made Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [The Lord Is My Shepherd](#) God's Big Story Video, Bible Story Picture (optional)

Our God's big story today was written by someone named David. Invite the kids to say, "David." **Let's find out more!**

Show the kids God's Big Story Video, read all of Psalm 23 from the Bible, or use the script provided. You can print a Bible Story Picture to give the kids a visual depiction of the Bible story.

Can you pretend to be a sheep? As you tell the story, encourage the kids to pretend to be sheep. They can "bahhh" or act out the things you say in the story.

In the Bible, there was a man named David who was a shepherd. David made sure to give his sheep everything they needed—like water, food, and safety. Invite the kids to pretend to be sheep eating and drinking. **David grew up and became a great king of Israel.**

David wrote this about God: God, You are our shepherd. You take care of us. You know what we need, and You always provide.

God, You give us strength and rest. Invite the kids to pretend to be sheep sleeping.

God, we know that there will be hard days, but we don't have to be afraid because You are with us. God, You give good things to us. You give us everything we need.

God, You are so good, and Your love for us is so big.

Just like with David, the Lord—that's another name for God—is always with us too. God cares for us like a shepherd cares for his sheep. He protects, guides, and gives. We can trust Him. Let's all say it out loud together: God cares for us! Invite kids to respond.

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible

WORD OF WONDER

How God made me is amazing and wonderful.

—from Psalm 139:14

Our Word of Wonder for the Wonderfully Made series is from Psalm 139:14. Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together. Practice the verse with the kids.

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **HOW GOD**—*Point up with both hands.*
- **MADE ME**—*Point to yourself with two thumbs.*
- **IS AMAZING**—*Put one arm out to your side for each word.*
- **AND WONDERFUL.**—*Burst both arms up and out to the sides at the same time.*
- **FROM PSALM 139:14**—*Hold your hands open in front of you, as if holding a book.*

Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God.

Dear God, thank You for loving us and leading us. We thank You for giving us everything we need. You are the Good Shepherd. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: The Lord is your shepherd. He wants to lead you. He wants to provide for you and comfort you. May you always remember that He's with you and cares for you.

Activity: Lost Sheep

SUPPLIES: toy sheep or stuffed animal

Sometimes sheep wander away, and it's the shepherd's job to find them. If the sheep comes to a scary place like the edge of a cliff, the shepherd may need to use the hook on their staff to pull the sheep back to safety.

Let's pretend we're shepherds, and we have lost a sheep! We're going to take turns looking for our lost sheep. Close your eyes or turn to face away from me. I will tell you when it's time to search.

Hide the toy sheep somewhere in the room. Let the kids take turns being the shepherd to search for the sheep. Play until everyone has had a chance to find the lost sheep.

You can also let the kids pretend to be lost sheep, and you pretend to be a shepherd who finds them.

We can remember that God is our shepherd. God takes care of us and gives us everything we need!