



Week 1 Preschool 8:30/11:00

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

Play Station

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [The Lord Is My Shepherd Coloring Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

Play Station: The Lord Is My Shepherd Coloring Sheet

Set up: Print one copy per kid of the coloring sheet and set out the coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of their favorite animal.

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible, shatterproof mirror

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.



Hold up a handheld mirror, looking at yourself as you say the Word of Wonder. Pass the mirror around the room and invite each kid to say the verse while looking in the mirror.

In today's God's big story, we learned about David, who wrote lots of poems and songs. Did you know poems and songs are one way we can praise God and thank Him for making us and knowing us?

After everyone has had a chance to say the verse, ask the kids about what they noticed in the mirror. **God is our Creator! He created us in amazing and wonderful ways! We have eyes for seeing, ears for hearing, a nose for smelling, and a mouth for tasting. Look around the room. Do we all look the same? No—we're all different, but we're all the same in one way ... we're all made by God to be amazing and wonderful!**

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.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **How does it make you feel to know God made you to be amazing and wonderful?**
- **What would you like to say to God for making you?**

Circle Time: God Cares for Me

SUPPLIES: bottle of water, toy food, toy house (or dollhouse furniture), item of clothing, paper heart, family photo

Ahead of time gather various supplies that show ways God takes care of us or gives us what we need.

Gather the kids in a circle and put all the supplies in the middle. **We learned today that David was a shepherd before he was the king of Israel. David always remembered when he was a shepherd. David wrote, “The Lord is my shepherd. He gives me everything I need” (Psalm 23:1). David called God his shepherd, the one who takes care of him. God took care of David like David took care of the sheep. God is also our shepherd. He takes care of us. God knows just what we need and when we need it.**

Go around the circle and let each kid choose an item, one at a time, from the middle of the circle. Invite each kid to share how that item is like a way God takes care of us. For example: A water bottle reminds us that God gives us water to drink.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Who wrote Psalm 23?** (*David*)
- **What does David call God in Psalm 23?** (*our shepherd*)
- **How do you think a good shepherd takes care of sheep?**
- **How do you think a good shepherd protects the sheep?**
- **What could happen to a flock of sheep if there was no shepherd?** (*The sheep could get hurt or lost; they might not have enough food or water; etc.*)
- **How are we like sheep?** (*We need help; we wander; we need to be led.*)
- **What are some ways God cares for you?**
- **How can you care for someone this week the way God cares for you?**

Leader Tip: Some kids may say they're not afraid of anything. You can give a gentle reminder that almost everyone feels nervous or afraid about something, and that's OK! It reminds us that we can trust God to help us!

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and thank God for hearing us and caring about us. God hears all our prayers!

Game: Lost Sheep

SUPPLIES: toy sheep or stuffed animal

Sometimes sheep wander away, and then 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 his 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. First, close your eyes or turn away from me. Then I'll tell you when it's time to search.

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

We can remember that like a shepherd takes care of sheep, God takes care of us. We can thank God for taking care of us.

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for being our shepherd.

Let's pray and talk to God and thank Him for all the ways He cares for us. God, thank You for being our Shepherd. We're so grateful that You give us everything we need. You comfort us, and You care for us. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out 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 and guide you. He wants to provide for you and comfort you. May you always remember that He's with you and cares for you.

Closing Activity: Listen to the Shepherd

Did you know sheep learn the voice of their shepherd? So if there's a bunch of different herds of sheep all near each other and the shepherd for one group of sheep calls to them, they'll only go to their shepherd, not the other one. Pretty neat, right? Let's play a game where we listen to one of our friends, and we'll have to figure out who talked without being able to see!

Encourage the kids to sit on the ground spread out, at least an arm's-length away from one another.

First, everyone needs to close their eyes. I'll tap one kid on the shoulder. That kid will say, "Hello, sheep!" Everyone else will keep their eyes closed until I say to open them. When I say, "Open your eyes," you can try to figure out which friend said the words.

Invite the kids to play the game, selecting a different kid to speak each round. You can even suggest having the kids use funny voices or quietly moving to a new spot when they talk.

We can listen to God and follow Him. We can trust Him to take care of us like sheep trust a shepherd to care for them.