

WEEK 28 | SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2026

David the Shepherd King

Bible Passage: Psalm 23

BIG IDEA

The LORD is a shepherd who provides, guides, protects, and welcomes His people home forever, all the way to Jesus, our Good Shepherd.

WHAT YOUR CHILD SHOULD REMEMBER

David, the shepherd boy who became king, wrote this song about God as his shepherd. Because Jesus is the Good Shepherd, we are never facing life alone.

1 MEMORY VERSE

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Psalm 23:1

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

What This Means for Children

God takes care of me completely. I do not have to be afraid I will be left without what I need.

How to Practice It at Home

Break the verse into two smaller phrases, The LORD is my shepherd and I shall not want. Say the first, have your child repeat it, then the second. Try saying it together at breakfast, or at every red light on the drive to school.

Ask

What does it mean that God is like a shepherd?

Suggested Answer

It means God takes care of us and watches over us the way a shepherd takes care of sheep, making sure they have what they need and keeping them safe.

Parent Tip

This verse matters because it reminds your child, and you, that God's care is not something we earn. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for us. Rest in that this week.

2 TODAY YOUR CHILD LEARNED

Today your child learned about Psalm 23, a song written by David. Before David was king, he spent years as a shepherd, caring for real sheep in the fields near Bethlehem. He knew firsthand how much sheep depend on a shepherd to survive. In this song, David turns that picture around and says the LORD is his shepherd. He talks about green pastures, quiet waters, dark valleys, and a table prepared even in front of enemies. Your child learned that God provides for His people not because they earn it, but because of who God is. And your child learned that centuries later, Jesus stood up and said, I am the good shepherd. Jesus did what David's song pictured, and more. He walked through death itself for His sheep and rose again, so we would never be alone.

3 WHY THIS LESSON MATTERS

This lesson protects your child from a common misunderstanding, that God only takes care of good, well behaved people. Psalm 23 says the opposite. God guides His people in right paths for His name's sake, meaning because of His own goodness, not because we deserve it. This truth becomes the foundation your child needs to understand grace long before they can define the word. It also gives your child something to hold onto in hard moments, since the psalm never promises an easy life, it promises a present God.

A Simple Way to Explain It to Your Child

You can say, having a shepherd does not mean scary things never happen, it means you are never facing them alone.

4 HELPING YOUR CHILD UNDERSTAND GOD'S GRACE

Simple explanation

Psalm 23 says God guides David for His name's sake, not because David earned it. Grace means God's kindness toward us that we do not deserve and cannot earn.

What to emphasize

God's care flows from His own character, not our performance.

What not to overcomplicate

You do not need to explain deep theology, just the simple truth that God is good, and that is why He is good to us.

What to avoid saying

Avoid saying or implying that God takes care of your child because they have been good this week. That teaches a child to perform for love rather than rest in it.

5 DEFENDING THE TRUTH AT HOME

A Question Children Often Ask

Why do bad things still happen if God is my shepherd?

A Simple Biblical Answer

Having a shepherd does not mean a sheep never faces danger, it means the sheep never faces it alone.

Scripture to Read Together

Psalm 23:4. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me.

A Parent Friendly Explanation

This is one of the most comforting truths in the whole Bible for hard seasons. God does not promise to remove every difficulty. He promises His presence within it.

How to Say It Kindly

You might say, this world still has hard things in it, but you never walk through them by yourself, God is right there with you, and so am I.

6 TALK ABOUT IT AT HOME

Use one or two of these questions during dinner, bedtime, or in the car. You do not have to ask all of them at once.

What does it mean that the LORD is our shepherd?

It means God takes care of us completely, the way a shepherd takes care of sheep.

What is one thing you learned about what a real shepherd does?

Answers will vary, may mention leading sheep to food and water, protecting them from danger, or carrying a rod and staff.

Who called Himself the Good Shepherd in the Bible?

Jesus, in John chapter 10.

Does having God as our shepherd mean we will never have hard days?

No, it means we are never facing hard days alone.

What is something hard you are facing that you can tell your Shepherd about tonight?

Personal reflection, encourage your child to share honestly, then pray about it together.

7 TRY THIS AS A FAMILY

One evening this week, in a safe room, take turns closing your eyes while a family member guides you across the room using only their voice, no hands. Afterward, ask what it felt like to trust a voice you could not see, and connect it to Jesus, whose sheep hear His voice and follow Him. No supplies needed beyond a safe open space, about five minutes.

Sentence to repeat

We are learning to listen for our Shepherd's voice this week.

8 WHEN YOUR CHILD IS AFRAID THIS WEEK

Real life situation

Your child is afraid of something, maybe the dark, a storm, or a hard day coming up.

Parent friendly response

Sit with them before trying to fix it. Remind them fear is normal, and that having a shepherd does not mean scary things disappear, it means they are never facing them alone.

Words to say

I know that feels scary. God is your shepherd, and He is right here with you in this. I am here with you too. Let's talk to Him about it together.

Gospel connection

Jesus does not just comfort us from far away. He walked through the hardest, darkest thing there is, death itself, and came out the other side, so we can trust Him in our own hard moments.

9 PRAYER TO PRAY TOGETHER

Dear Jesus, thank You for being our Good Shepherd. Thank You for taking care of us every day, even the hard days. Help us hear Your voice and follow You this week. When we are afraid, remind us we are never alone. In Jesus' name, amen.

10 A FINAL THOUGHT FOR PARENTS

You do not have to be a Bible scholar to disciple your child well this week. A shepherd does not need to be impressive, just present and attentive, and so do you. Small, honest conversations at the dinner table or in the car matter more than you know. God is already at work in your child's heart, Jesus is already their Good Shepherd, and the Holy Spirit is already helping them grow. You are not doing this alone either.