

Creative Adventures Through the Bible

Helping one another, Supporting one another, and Caring for one another
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Week of: March 22, 2020

Title: “The Shepherd is Leading”

Scripture text: Psalm 23 and/ or John 10:1-17

<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/btbm-psalm-23/>

I encourage you to read Psalm 23 several times before you read the text to your children. You are welcome to use the pictures from the link provided to create either a PowerPoint for the story or to create a story book for children with the pictures and include Psalm 23.

I included John 10: 1-17 - Jesus reminding us that we are the sheep and we are to respond to the shepherd who is calling us.

Background and Lesson:

Most of the time we hear the words from Psalm 23 at funerals. Psalm 23 creates a picture for us of how caring God is and how much God is active in our lives even when we don't take time to value God's presence in our lives.

At this time, as we are dealing with a new “normal” in our lives, this text can give us comfort. Children and youth know things are different. Their daily routines have changed just as much as ours have. As humans we are used to having rituals/ habits that we do each day.

The text from Psalm 23 and John 10 is a reminder that even though this difficult uncertain time, God is beside us. It is up to us to take time to notice. This last week on TV and videos we have seen how people are taking time to care for others and to be present even with a distance. Choirs are signing online. People are encouraging each other from apartment balconies. People are purchasing food and other items for those who cannot leave their homes. People are giving food and other resources so that people have a place to live and food to eat in hopes of reducing stress.

The Shepherd is reminding us that we are being cared for and loved.

The text from Psalm reminds me to take time to look around at all that God has created. So, even from the apartment balcony we can see God's

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creation. We can take time to see the clouds, the blue sky, the sun and the stars. We can take time to listen the birds sing. We can take time to see the trees and flowers awaking from their winter's rest.

Through this time of new “normal,” we can take note that God is our Shepherd and is calling us to draw near. IF we have felt lost or afraid, we can take comfort that God is walking beside us. That God is providing for us.

We are to also be disciples and make sure that others who feel lost at this time know that they are not alone. That even by leaving kind messages by using chalk in the driveway for others to see is giving hope. We can help one another by calling and checking in. We can place aside our disagreements and join Christ at the Table of grace, love, and peace.

For Christ is always protecting.

Song Ideas:

“I just need U” – Toby Mac

“Shoulders” – King and Country

“Down in My Heart”

“Gentle Shepherd”

“Savior, Like A Shepherd Leads Us”

Game ideas:

1.) Play a game of Hiding – Go – Seek.

One person can be the Shepherd. The sheep all go and hide. Then after counting, the Shepherd needs to find them.

2.) Here are some indoor activities that you can do at home.

<https://www.todaysparent.com/toddler/20-fun-indoor-games/>

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Craft Ideas:

1.) The Shepherd and the Flock

Take pictures of the family – individual and/ or together.

On a piece of cardstock or construction paper include the following:

Find a picture online of Jesus with a staff and a lamp. Color the picture in.

Then print copies of the family pictures and glue them around Jesus and the lamp.

You can place the picture in a picture frame and display in the house.

A reminder, that we are all loved by God.

Print out or hand write Psalm 23 and include it the picture.

I encourage you as a family to memorize Psalm 23 if you have not already.

Or you can include the following text: (you can use this as a prayer)

“The Lord bless you and keep you;

the Lord make his face shine on you

and be gracious to you;

the Lord turn his face toward you

and give you peace.” Numbers 6:24-26

2.) If you take extra pictures, send a card to a love one with the pictures enclosed. Or you can create a card with the pictures.

Movie or video ideas:

- “Fly Away Home” (1996)
- “Babe” (1995)

In both movies have examples of Shepherding.