

# Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2010

# Through the Old Testament in Two Years

## Part Two



Created for use with young, unchurched learners  
Adaptable for all ages including adults

# Old Testament

## The Good Shepherd

## Psalm 23

### Memory Verse:

I am the good shepherd.  
(John 10:11 NIV)

### Goals

1. Understand that David was a shepherd.
2. Recognize that a shepherd must guide his sheep.
3. Learn that a shepherd knows his sheep by name.
4. Understand that the shepherd leads his sheep to green pastures and peaceful water.

Last week we learned from Psalm 19 that God's creation gives testimony of God's glory. The message of creation is something all the earth sees. David also said that God's Word is perfect. The Word of God helps us understand His salvation.

### Read the Bible

**READ: Psalm 23:1-6 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)**

### Begin with Prayer

In Psalm 23 David calls God his shepherd. (Psalm 23:1) You may recall that David himself was a shepherd. When he went before King Saul to tell him that he would fight the giant, Goliath, David told Saul that he was a shepherd. As a shepherd, David said that he had to fight off a lion and a bear. David had been willing to die for his sheep. (Samuel 17:34-37 CEV)

David knew that a shepherd takes great care in leading his sheep. His own experience taught him about the importance of knowing the sheep. Sheep "will never follow a stranger. In fact, they will run away from him. They don't recognize a stranger's voice." (John 10:5 NIV) Jesus said, "My sheep listen to My voice. I know them, and they follow Me." (John 10:27 NIV)

David understood that a shepherd knows his sheep by name. (John 10:3) The sheep follow the shepherd who knows their name. They know his voice. David recognized that God knew his name and cared about him.

David also recognized that God cared about him. Peter tells us to give our burdens to God because He cares about us. (1 Peter 5:7)

David said that he knows that he would never be in need because God was his shepherd. He comprehended that God supplies all our needs. (Philippians 4:19)

Have you ever been afraid? The sheep lay down to rest in the presence of the shepherd. There they can rest without fear because they know the shepherd will be there to protect them and to help them. (Psalm 23:2) David knew he could trust God. When his son, Solomon, began to build the temple, he said, "Don't be afraid. Don't lose hope. The Lord God is my God. He is with you. He won't fail you." (1 Chronicles 28:20 NIV)

David knew that the shepherd must lead his sheep to still waters. He said that

### The Good Shepherd — Bible Facts

1. A shepherd is willing to die for his sheep.
2. A shepherd cares about his sheep.
3. A shepherd guides the sheep to still waters.
4. God provides for all our needs.

God led him to “peaceful water.” (Psalm 23:2) The water is peaceful and pleasant. God provides the refreshment the water gives. The water is pleasing to the ears and the eyes. It is pleasant to touch. He leads us along the paths that provide that peace and refreshment. When we follow the shepherd we find refreshment for our lives. (Psalm 23:3)

In His mercy and grace, God restores us when we have strayed. (Psalm 23:4) When David sinned against God, God sent the prophet Nathan to confront David. David repented. His relationship with God was restored. (II Samuel 12:1-25) God forgives us if we will confess our sins. (I John 1:9)

We don't have to be afraid because God is with us. He will protect us. His rod will be used to drive away what may threaten to harm us. We can find comfort in the staff that will lift us up when we fall. We can feel safe in His loving care. (Psalm 23:4)

God blesses with His extravagant love. He provides in abundance for all our enemies to see. He provides us with food and drink. Our good shepherd provides for all our needs.

#### Review

1. **What does a shepherd do?** (A shepherd cares for his sheep and is willing to die for his sheep.)
2. **How does a shepherd feel about his sheep?** (A shepherd cares for his sheep.)
3. **How does a shepherd guide his sheep?** (A shepherd guides his sheep to still waters.)
4. **What does God do for us?** (God provides for all our needs.)

#### Do You Know Jesus?

David understood what it meant to be a shepherd. He knew the shepherd would give his life for his sheep. That is what Jesus did for us. He died for our sins. Then He rose from the dead. Because Jesus lives, we can have a personal relationship with God. (Romans 10:9-10) If you would like to know more, talk to your teacher about it.

#### Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for being our shepherd.
3. Ask God to help you follow Him.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to follow Him.

#### Application

In this Psalm David calls God his shepherd. As a shepherd himself, David understood that a shepherd must guide his sheep. He knew the names of his sheep because he cared. He leads the sheep to green pastures and still waters so that the sheep may find rest, refreshment, and peace. God provides all that and more. David said that God provided food so that his enemies could see it. He provided more drink than he wanted or needed. If we follow Him, He will be our shepherd. (John 10:11)

#### Planning for Next Week

**Solomon Writes Words — Proverbs 3:1-6 6:6-11; 12:6; 16:28; 17:9; 17:17; 26:20; 31**

# Preschool Lesson

## Read the Bible

**READ: Psalm 23:1-6 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)**

**Teachers:** Play "Follow the Leader."

In Psalm 23 David calls God his shepherd. (Psalm 23:1)

David knew that a shepherd is careful when leading his sheep. He knew that it was important for the shepherd to know the sheep. Sheep "will never follow a stranger. In fact, they will run away from him. They don't recognize a stranger's voice." (John 10:5 NIV) Jesus said, "My sheep listen to My voice. I know them, and they follow Me." (John 10:27 NIV)

David knew that a shepherd knows his sheep by name. (John 10:3) The sheep follow the shepherd who knows their name. They know his voice. David knew that God knew his name and cared about him

David said that he knew that he would never be in needs because God was his shepherd and God gives us everything we need. (Philippians 4:19)

The shepherd takes the sheep to still waters. There they can rest without fear because they know the shepherd will be there to protect them and to help them. (Psalm 23:2) David knew he could trust God.

We can trust God. He is with us and will protect us.

### Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for being our shepherd.
3. Ask God to help you follow Him.

### Memory verse for younger children

I am the good shepherd. John 10:11

## Learning Activities

•**Memory verse activity** — Make a shepherd’s staff out of poster board. Write the verse on it. Let each child make a smaller staff out of construction paper. Write the verse on it.

**Test your memory** — Challenge the children to memorize all twelve verses of Psalm 23. Make six posters with one verse on each poster. Place the posters on the walls or hang them in your area. Let the children stand at one of six posters and memorize that portion of Psalm 23. Then ask them to step to another verse. If necessary allow them a few weeks to memorize the entire psalm.

•**Taste activity** — Make sugar cookies in the shape of sheep. Decorate them with icing.

Bring graham crackers. Put icing on the crackers. Then use a pattern and shake sprinkles to form sheep on the crackers.

•**Think about it** — David said God was his shepherd. He knew that God would protect and provide for him. Talk about God’s protection and provision in our lives.

David said that he knew he would need nothing because the Lord was his shepherd. Talk about how we may not have all our “wants,” but God does provide for all our needs.

•**Touch activity** — Make a sheep mask.

The shepherd leads the sheep to green pastures. Ask the children to create a scene with green pastures and still waters. Use construction paper for the background. Use green plastic grass to make the grass. Use blue plastic grass to make the water.

**Run and play** — Play “Follow the Leader.”

Play “Simon Says.”

•**Listen** — As the children take time for silence, remind them that God wants us to follow Him.

•**Sing** — Sing “I Don’t Want to Be a Pharisee,” “Wherever He Leads, I’ll Go,” “Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Me,” or another song related to the story.

•**Reach out** — During class, pray (by name) for kids who did not come today. Ask the children to go with you to deliver the handouts to those who were absent. Take the shepherd’s staff with memory verse to them. Pray with the children who were absent. Encourage them to read the story in the Bible.

**Memory Verse**

I am the  
good  
shepherd.  
John 10:11

## Word Puzzle

Trace the letters.

The

Lord

is my

shepherd

## Word Search

S M P K R G B F F A T S D N A D O R  
E E R K T D K M W S N W H S P T S D  
C B R M S F N K A C A M M S N D L E  
C G E U T T N L I N D E H Y N E T M  
T R H R T O I R T N F E E E A A O D  
D K A M W S E L R N P T I D E O O E  
W E P D T G A E L H D M S R R O L P  
F M P I N Y S P E W F O Y G T V R G  
M B O A E T B R N D A S E V I A E L  
N V R F O H D L A E I T R P O N R H  
C T U R W I E V N E E E E P U I M H  
S K E S E A I I O R D R O R P R C C  
U S S D S D L G B C A H G J S W E E

SHEPHERD

LEAD

STRANGER

RESTORES

DAVID

KNOW

STILL WATERS

FEAR

WANT

MY VOICE

GREEN PASTURES

ROD AND STAFF



## Word Search



SHEPHERD

LEAD

STRANGER

RESTORES

DAVID

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ROD AND STAFF

## Word Search

D M P R N F K H D F L J  
N P K H T B L M P H V Z  
B P N L G W S T F N D F  
R G M P S H E P H E R D  
T B Y F R E S T O R E D  
J C S W M P Z B S G N B  
H R K G K N O W F B N P  
P S T B W A N T N K F R  
V B F R S W P K F B M D  
W A L Q L E A D N L V T  
S B P L D A V I D B M D  
M K R D S C D N L F R D

DAVID

SHEPHERD

WANT

KNOW

LEAD

RESTORE

## Word Search

D	M	P	R	N	F	K	H	D	F	L	J
N	P	K	H	T	B	L	M	P	H	V	Z
B	P	N	L	G	W	S	T	F	N	D	F
R	G	M	P	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D
T	B	Y	F	R	E	S	T	O	R	E	D
J	C	S	W	M	P	Z	B	S	G	N	B
H	R	K	G	K	N	O	W	F	B	N	P
P	S	T	B	W	A	N	T	N	K	F	R
V	B	F	R	S	W	P	K	F	B	M	D
W	A	L	Q	L	E	A	D	N	L	V	T
S	B	P	L	D	A	V	I	D	B	M	D
M	K	R	D	S	C	D	N	L	F	R	D

DAVID

SHEPHERD

WANT

KNOW

LEAD

RESTORE

# Anagram

HHPRDEES

VIEG

NRTHYGIEEV

EEDN

RSSAG

TRAEW

DSEIUG

MRTOOCF

STAEF

# Anagram

SHEPHERD

GIVE

EVERYTHING

NEED

GRASS

WATER

GUIDES

COMFORT

FEAST