

“God is My Shepherd”

Lesson for Toddlers

This particular lesson is based on Psalm 23 and John 10. In very simple language, it shows how God is like a shepherd that cares for us.

Bible Passage: Psalm 23, John 10:1-18

Bible Lesson Title: God is our Good Shepherd

Main Idea: God is our good Shepherd. We are His sheep. He takes care of us.

Supplies: Bible, picture of shepherd and sheep.
(See additional activities below for supply list.)

Hold up your Bible. **SAY:** The Bible tells us God is our good Shepherd.

The Bible is His Word. **SAY:** God is our good Shepherd. We are His sheep. He takes care of us.
(Repeat three times.)

The following activities are designed to reinforce the simple Scripture truth, encourage their development, and engage their imaginations and creativity. Choose the ones that will work best for your child.

Learning Activities

Follow the Shepherd (large Group/everyone)

SUPPLIES: Shepherd staff, healthy snack for toddlers, water to drink. Optional: costume, bells for your sheep, room décor to make it look like a field (using butcher paper, make rocks, grassy places, ponds, etc.)

ASK: What does a sheep say? (Baaaa.) God is our Shepherd. We are His sheep. He takes care of us. I will pretend to be your shepherd. You are my sheep. Follow me, and I will care for you.

DO: Have another teacher get on the ground and act like a sheep to encourage the toddlers to do the same. Lead your sheep to water. Encourage them to drink. Lead them to food. Encourage them to eat.

SAY: God is our Shepherd. He provides us with food and water. He cares for us. (While they are eating, count your sheep.)

SAY: All of my sheep are here. I am a shepherd and I protect my sheep. God is our good Shepherd. He protects us. (Lead them to a resting place.)

SAY: When we are tired, God gives us rest. Can you pretend to rest (sleep)? God is our good Shepherd. He takes care of us. (While they are resting, count your sheep.)

SAY: All of my sheep are here. I am a shepherd and I protect my sheep. God is our good Shepherd. He protects us.

If they have trouble following you during this activity (straying from the other children), **SAY:** Sheep follow their shepherd! I need _____ (child's name) to follow me! God is your good Shepherd. He knows

your name and calls you to follow Him!

Box Pull (large or small group)

SUPPLIES: Shoes boxes with a hole punched near the top of one small side; tie a string long enough for a toddler to pull the box around behind them; stuffed lambs, blankies

SAY: Here is a sheep for you to take care of. Can you tuck them in and keep them safe? The Bible says God is our good Shepherd. We are His sheep. He takes care of us.

DO: Show them how they can pull the boxes behind them and lead their sheep. Repeat the main idea as much as you can.

Cotton Ball Discovery (small group)

SUPPLIES: Medium or large box/container, cotton balls, small Bible, toy sheep, toy shepherd, small books about sheep, or any other small items that might go along with the lesson theme. Fill your box with cotton balls. Hide the items throughout.

SAY: Sheep are soft, like these cotton balls. Can you feel the cotton balls? (Pass around a few cotton balls. Show them how to touch them to their faces to feel the softness.) There are some things hidden in these cotton balls! (Pull one small item out.) Let's see what you can find! (You may want to do this with small groups so 2 or 3 toddlers can do it at the same time rather than all of them wanting, but not being able, to do it at once.)

Picture Discovery

Print out various pictures of sheep and shepherds. Put them in random places around your room where your toddlers will be playing. When they are in that area, talk to them about the pictures. Ask them what they see. Repeat the main idea.

Read Together

There are many children's book based on Psalm 23. Read them a picture book like this. Or you could read a story about David when he was a shepherd or Jesus' lesson about being the Good Shepherd in John 10. Or if these are unavailable to you, make your own little picture book based on Psalm 23 or John 10!

Pray

Hold hands or bow your heads together (just demonstrate and ask them to do the same. Some may, most may just watch.) Say a short prayer like the following: Dear God, you are our good Shepherd. We are your sheep. You take care of us. Help us to follow you. We love you. Thank you for loving us. Amen.