

Special songs



Bible verses:

Psalms: Psalm 23



Aim:

To explore the book of Psalms and Psalm 23 'The Lord is my shepherd'



Today's fruit:

Love



In our session today we'll explore how people communicated with God through psalms.

Within the book of Psalms we see that people were able to express many different emotions and share words of praise and thanksgiving. The children will have the opportunity to discover the power of God's love found in the words of Psalm 23. Psalm 23 will remain the focus for the next month.

The love expressed between people and God is expressed beautifully through words in Psalm 23.

Each child will need:

- A sheet of A4 white paper, extra white paper, pale pink paper, optional other pale paper colours, eg yellow, glue, scissors, black pen, eye stickers - optional
- Pens/pencils and paper
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- To create or find a playlist full of high-energy praise music
- Today's fruit sign: *Love*
- To prepare part of the craft activity for some children - optional
- *Psalm 23* poster



Start it

To start off the session today the children are going to play musical statues using praise music.

Create or find a playlist full of high-energy praise music. Encourage the children to dance while the music plays and freeze when the music stops. Each time select a new worship song. You can decide if any shaky statues are removed from the game, or you can play for fun.

Say:

In today's session we will hear about a whole book in the Bible filled with songs of worship.

Sing it

Display the *Love* sign.

Say:

Our Scripture reading today is Psalm 23. It's a beautiful song found in the Old Testament that describes how God cares for us and shows us just how much God loves us.

Say:

Our song for today is based on Psalm 23. It reminds us that God is our shepherd, protecting us and looking after us as the sheep of his flock.

Song

'Psalm 23' by Kids on the Move (2:26)

Say:

God asks us to share his love with others. Our memory verse for this month reminds us how we can share God's love. Let's share it together.

Memory verse

'Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.'

(Ephesians 4:32 *NIV*)

Share it

Say:

Today we are going to begin learning about a beautiful book in the Bible full of songs and poetry.

Video

God's story: books of the Bible: Psalms by Crossroad Kids' Club (4:08)



Ask:

- Where would you find the book of Psalms in the Bible? **In the Old Testament, between Job and Proverbs. If you open up a paper Bible, then it is more or less right in the middle.**
- How many songs and poems are there in the Book of Psalms? **150**
- What is the shortest Psalm? **Psalm 117**
- What is the longest Psalm? **Psalm 119**
- Who wrote many of the Psalms? **King David**
- What different emotions are found in the Book of Psalms? **Joy, worship, sadness and anger.**
- How do you think the Psalms can help us today?
- Why do you think King David wrote Psalm 23?

Say:

The word psalm means a special song. When we look at the Psalms in the Bible, we understand them as songs or poems that were written to praise God.

Ask:

Are there any special songs that you like singing or listening to as you worship God?

Say:

King David was an ancestor of Jesus, and he wrote many of the Psalms as a way of connecting to and worshipping God.

Ask:

- How do you like to connect with God?
- Do you enjoy music, or dancing, or thinking?

Say:

Today we are focusing on one of the most well-known psalms in the whole book, Psalm 23.

Read:

**'The Lord is my shepherd.
I have everything I need.
He gives me rest in green pastures.
He leads me to calm water.
He gives me new strength.
For the good of his name,
he leads me on paths that are right.
Even if I walk
through the dark valley of death,
I will not be afraid
because you are with me.**



Your rod and your [shepherd's] staff comfort me.
You prepare a meal for me
in front of my enemies.
You pour oil [of blessing] on my head.
You give me more than I can hold.
Surely your goodness and love will be with me
all my life.
And I will live in the house of the Lord for ever.'

(Psalm 23 *ICB*)



Ask:

- How do you think King David was feeling when he wrote this psalm?
- What do you think he was trying to say to God?

Say:

The Psalms are examples of different feelings and thoughts people wanted to share with God. They praise and pray to God because they love him. They also celebrate the love that God has for them.

Ask:

If you were to write a psalm to God, what would you want him to know?

Say:

One of your *Explore it Ideas* activities gives you the chance to write your own psalm to God. We can share our words of praise and thanksgiving, or emotions of sadness and anger, with God, just like the writers of the Psalms did thousands of years ago.

Action it

Explain that the children are going to make their own lamb chop puppet to remind them of Psalm 23. Depending on your group you may want to make some sections of the puppet in advance.

Video

How to make a lamb chop puppet by Easy Paper Crafts – (2:43)

Pray it

Display *Psalm 23 (ICB)*. Using their puppets, ask the children to read Psalm 23 as a prayer together.

'The Lord is my shepherd.
I have everything I need.
He gives me rest in green pastures.
He leads me to calm water.
He gives me new strength.
For the good of his name,
he leads me on paths that are right.
Even if I walk
through the dark valley of death,
I will not be afraid
because you are with me.
Your rod and your [shepherd's] staff comfort me.
You prepare a meal for me
in front of my enemies.
You pour oil [of blessing] on my head.
You give me more than I can hold.
Surely your goodness and love will be with me
all my life.
And I will live in the house of the Lord forever.'

(Psalm 23 *ICB*)

Ask:

Which line is the most important to you as you go into a new week? Why have you chosen this one?

Say:

If there is ever a moment when you are feeling worried or afraid, then turn to Psalm 23 and read it aloud.

If you have time, then share the Sing It song again and encourage the children to get their lamb chop puppets to sing along.

Song

'Psalm 23' by Kids on the Move (2:26)



Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.

Explore It is produced by the Children and Youth Department in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaview)

Special songs

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:

Psalms: Psalm 23



Aim:

To explore the book of Psalms and Psalm 23 'The Lord is my shepherd'



Today's fruit:

Love



Create

This week we discovered that psalms – special songs and poems – can communicate many different emotions. How are you feeling right now? What would you like to share with God?

Write your own psalm to share your emotions with a God who loves you.



Bake

Ask someone at home to help you make some lamb-themed biscuits to remind you of Psalm 23.

Easter lamb cookies recipe by Tesco Real Food

<https://realfood.tesco.com/recipes/easter-lamb-cookies.html>



Song for the week

'Psalm 23' by Kids on the Move



Memory verse

'Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.'

(Ephesians 4:32 NIV)

**LIVING
OUT FAITH**

Kids Alive! Online – salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive

Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!



Children
& Youth