

Being with God

**Bible verses:**

Psalm 23:5-6

The Lord is my shepherd

**Aim:**

To know that God will always
love, welcome and walk with me

**Today's fruit:**

Goodness



Today we come to the end of our journey through Psalm 23.

We focus on God's goodness and the warm welcome that awaits us at his table. The children will have the opportunity to pull together everything they have learned this month to create a beautiful piece of artwork.

We acknowledge God's goodness, as he provides for us and blesses us.

Each child will need:

- *Psalm 23 different layouts* handout
- Pens/pencils, scissors, glue and paper
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- Today's fruit sign: *Goodness*



Start it

Play the 'You're welcome' clip from the film *Moana* by Disney as the children enter the session. Are the lyrics the same as what they are used to? What is different?

Video

You're welcome (multilanguage) by Mirla Karoliina (2:52)

Say:

As you came in, we listened to a multilingual version of the song 'You're welcome' from the film *Moana*. Today we're thinking about what it means to be made welcome. Now, Maui wasn't really trying to make Moana welcome at all; he was more focused on himself. That is not the kind of welcome we will be thinking about today.

Ask:

- What other words do we use to welcome people?
- Does anyone know how to say the word 'welcome' in another language? Share it with the group.

Here are some examples of the word 'welcome' that you can share with your group. Encourage the children to try the greetings as they watch the clip.

Video

People from 12 countries show us their greeting by World Friends (3:47)



Sing it

Say:

We're going to sing a song based on Psalm 23. We used it when we first started learning about the psalms last month.

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



Share it

Say:

This week we focus on verses 5 and 6 of Psalm 23. As always, we're going to share the whole psalm together.

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)

Say:

The last two verses of Psalm 23 talk about being welcomed by God. It says that God prepares a table for us, and our cup overflows.

Ask:

What is your favourite meal and drink?

Say:

David helps us to imagine God preparing a wonderful meal that shows how much he loves us and cares for us.

Ask:

When you have been invited to someone's house, how do they usually welcome you?

Say:

At the time Psalm 23 was written, people had a special way of greeting each other. They would show respect to a visitor by anointing them with oil. As a symbol of respect, they would bless someone by dabbing a little oil on their forehead. It was a reminder of God caring for his people.

Ask:

We may not dab oil on each other's foreheads, but how do we welcome people in a special way?

Say:

In verse six, David reminds us that God's goodness and love are with us throughout our lives.

Ask:

What might God's goodness look like in our lives?

Display the *Goodness* sign.



Say:

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can grow the fruit of goodness and show God's love to others.

Ask:

What might it look like for us to show goodness to others with the help of the Holy Spirit?

Say:

The final part of Psalm 23 talks about how we will live in God's house for ever. As Christians, we believe that when we die, we go to be with God in Heaven. We get to spend eternity in God's house.

Action it

Show the children the **Hannah Dunnett website** and look at the way she portrays Scripture through art.

Explain that the children are going to create their own piece of artwork based around Psalm 23. A printed handout is available for the children to either draw over or cut up to use in their design. Alternatively, if they are confident writers, they can copy the Scripture from the handout. Once the children have completed their artwork, they can share it with each other.



Pray it

Say:

Think back through everything you have discovered about Psalm 23. In a moment you will have the chance to read out your favourite verse from the psalm and explain why you like it so much.

Give the children time to read through the words on their artwork and choose a favourite verse. Go around the group and ask each child to share their thoughts.

When each child has shared, pray with the group and thank God that he is our Good Shepherd.

Say:

Each week we have shared our memory verse to bring our session to a close. Let's share it together for the last time.



Memory verse

‘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 23:6 ICB)

Explore it

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



Being with God

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:
Psalm 23:5-6



Aim:
To know that God will always love, welcome and walk with me



Today's fruit:
Goodness



Learn

Learn how to say hello in five different languages.



Teach

Once you have learned how to say hello in five different languages, teach the people at home what you have discovered. Encourage everyone to welcome each other using a different language each time.



Song for the week

'Psalm 23' by Kids on the Move



Memory verse

'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 23:6 /CB)

**LIVING
OUT FAITH**