**LESSON 7: PSALM 23: MY SHEPHERD**

**Classroom: My One Room ClassroomLeader Guide for One Room**

05/10/2020

**Psalm 23:1; John 10:1-16**

**Teachers Dig In**

**Dig In to the Bible**

* Read: Psalm 23:1; John 10:1-16
* In This Passage: David begins a psalm about how God is like a shepherd. In John 10, Jesus also talks about how he is like our shepherd. As his sheep, we can follow our Shepherd because he guides us.
* Bible Point: God guides us.
* Summary Verse: “The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need” (Psalm 23:1).

**Dig Deeper**

* You’ll Be Teaching: *God guides us.*The Bible often uses sheep and shepherds as a metaphor for our relationship with God. While this was a very helpful and tangible comparison in Bible times, it may be lost on many of today’s kids, who may not be all that familiar with shepherds and sheep. Help kids think of sheep and shepherds like pets and people. Pet owners love, care for, and protect their pets.
* Think About: In what ways has God shepherded you?

**Dig In to Prayer**

* Ask God to help kids know and follow his will.

**Quick Tip**

* Consider how you can be more of a guide than an instructor in your classroom. Dig In is full of thought-provoking questions to help kids make discoveries for themselves rather than just being told the connection. Be strategic by using these questions to guide kids to truth. You can also guide kids to making good choices with their behavior by having one-on-one conversations that help them process why they are behaving a certain way and what alternatives they could choose.

**This Lesson at a Glance**

[**OPENING**](https://diginapp.group.com/User/Builder/Preview/1827740#opening)

**Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.**

**Supplies**

* Bible
* green plastic tablecloth
* tape
* cotton balls\* (1 per child)
* Glue Dots

**Easy Prep**

* Hang the green plastic tablecloth on the wall.

[**TALK-ABOUT VIDEO**](https://diginapp.group.com/User/Builder/Preview/1827740#talk-about-video)

**Kids watch a video and discuss the Bible point.**

**Supplies**

* “Chex’s Story” teaching video (watch or download [here](https://vimeo.com/showcase/6359811/video/365090759))

[**CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY**](https://diginapp.group.com/User/Builder/Preview/1827740#core-bible-discovery)

**Kids make sheep habitats and guide cotton-ball sheep through them.**

**Supplies**

* Bible
* 8½x11-inch card stock (1 piece per child)
* markers
* glue sticks
* Glue Dots
* decorating supplies such as duct tape, craft sticks, toothpicks, green felt, blue cellophane, and raffia
* cotton balls (1 per child)
* pompoms (1 per child)

[**MUSIC VIDEO**](https://diginapp.group.com/User/Builder/Preview/1827740#music-video)

**Kids sing songs of praise to God.**

**Supplies**

* “God Will Guide Us” (watch or download [here](https://vimeo.com/showcase/6359811/video/365090417))
* “Never Let Go of Me” (watch or download [here](https://vimeo.com/showcase/6359811/video/365090446))
* “I Will Not Be Afraid” (watch or download [here](https://vimeo.com/showcase/6359811/video/365090425))

[**LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP**](https://diginapp.group.com/User/Builder/Preview/1827740#life-application-wrap-up)

**Kids hold cotton balls and pray for God’s guidance.**

**Supplies**

* cotton balls\*

*\*Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.

**OPENING[5 min]**

**Welcome**

**Supplies**

* Bible
* green plastic tablecloth
* tape
* cotton balls\* (1 per child)
* Glue Dots

**Easy Prep**

* Hang the green plastic tablecloth on the wall.

**Welcome**

* Thank kids for coming.
* Make announcements.
* Introduce new kids.
* Collect the offering.

**Introduce the Lesson**

            Say: **Over the next few weeks, we’ll learn a chapter of the Bible called Psalm 23. Psalm 23 is the most often quoted psalm! It talks about how God is like a shepherd. So let’s add sheep to our field!**

* Have kids each use a Glue Dot to place a cotton ball on the green tablecloth.
* You’ll continue to add to the field for a few weeks, so leave it hanging.

**Share**

* Tell kids what animal *you* think would be the hardest to train.
* Have kids form pairs. Ask kids to share which animal *they*think would be hardest to train. How about the easiest?
* After partners have shared, ask two or three kids to share with the whole group.

**Summarize**

            Open a Bible to Psalm 23, and say: **Not every animal is easy to train. It would be pretty hard to train your pet boa constrictor to roll over. But there’s one kind of animal that loves to follow its master: sheep! So let’s see what the Bible has to say about God being like our shepherd. One way God is like a shepherd is that God guides us. Let’s find out more about that in his special book. But first, let’s talk with God.**

            Pray, thanking God for his guidance.

**TALK-ABOUT VIDEO[10 min]**

**Chex’s Story**

**Supplies**

* “Chex’s Story” teaching video (watch or download [here](https://vimeo.com/showcase/6359811/video/365090759))

**Tip**

* Don’t have internet in your classroom? That’s okay! You can download the videos before class using the “download” button at the link provided, or just purchase this quarter’s DVD [here](https://www.group.com/product/1210000311276-dig-in-epic-teachings-of-the-bible-companion-dvd-q3.do?from=ac).

**Discuss and Watch “Chex’s Story”**

            Say: **We’re learning that God is our shepherd. Just as a shepherd guides sheep, God guides us. You might not know that much about shepherds; they were a lot more common in Bible times. But I bet you’ll *love*the shepherd we’re about to meet.**

            Watch “Chex’s Story.”

            Ask: **• What did you learn about sheep or shepherding from this video?**

**• Theresa said that God watches over us with his eye and helps us get back in line. How did you see Chex doing something like that?**

**• Why do the sheep follow Chex?**

**• How does it help you to know that God guides you like Chex guides sheep?**

            Say: **Sheep don’t always know where to go. They can’t follow whistle or voice commands like Chex can. But they can follow Chex’s guidance! We don’t always know where to go or what to do either, but God guides us and we can follow him.**

**CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY[20 min]**

**Psalm 23: My Shepherd (Psalm 23:1; John 10:1-16)**

**Supplies**

* Bible
* 8½x11-inch card stock (1 piece per child)
* markers
* glue sticks
* Glue Dots
* decorating supplies such as duct tape, craft sticks, toothpicks, green felt, blue cellophane, and raffia
* cotton balls (1 per child)
* pompoms (1 per child)

**Decorate a Sheep Pen**

            Say: **Today we’re learning that God guides us like a shepherd guides his sheep. We’ll be learning from Psalm 23 for the next few weeks. That’s the most famous chapter from the book of Psalms, and it compares God to a shepherd. Let’s see how it starts.**

            Read Psalm 23:1.

            Ask: **• What do you think a sheep needs?**

            Say: **Let’s make habitats for cotton-ball sheep to provide them with everything they need. Later, we’ll add sheep and guide them as we learn how God guides us.**

            Set out the craft supplies, and let kids make their sheep pens. They should each use one piece of card stock as a base and then add different supplies however they’d like. They could use toothpicks or craft sticks for fences, cellophane for water, felt for grass, raffia for food, and so on. Allow about 10 minutes for kids to create. Older kids can help younger kids as necessary.

**Guide Sheep**

            Give each child a cotton ball to use as a sheep, and have kids each pick up a toothpick or other supply to use as a shepherd. Say: **Now I’m going to read from another part of the Bible where Jesus talks about being our shepherd. As I read, act out the story by moving your sheep and shepherd along.**

            Read John 10:1-5 slowly, pausing regularly for kids to act out as you read.

            Give each child a pompom to use as a wolf. Then read John 10:11-15 slowly, pausing for kids to act out as you read.

            Ask: **• What did you have to do to guide your sheep?**

**• In what ways does God guide you?**

**• Based on what you learned about shepherds, how is God like a shepherd?**

            Say: **A shepherd loves his sheep. He guides them to food and water so they have everything they need. He guides them away from danger so they don’t get hurt. God guides us, too! God is our shepherd.**

**MUSIC VIDEO[10 min]**

**God Will Guide Us**

**Supplies**

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**Tip**

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**Sing Songs to God**

            Sing the three songs in any order.

**LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP[5 min]**

**Thank Ewe**

**Supplies**

* cotton balls\*

**Pray With Cotton Balls**

* Have each child get his or her cotton ball from Core Bible Discovery and hold it.
* Have kids pray silently, asking God for guidance where they feel uncertain.
* Next, have kids pray silently to commit to following God’s guidance.
* Finally, have kids take turns praying aloud to thank God for being our shepherd and holding us in his hands.
* Pray: **God, thank you that you are a good shepherd. You will always guide us down the best paths. Help us follow your guidance. In Jesus’ name, amen.**
* Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.

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