

The Names and Characters of God

THE GOOD SHEPHERD -GOD CARES FOR US

“Those who know your name trust in you, for you, O LORD, do not abandon those who search for you.” Psalm 9:10

Conversation Starters

- * What do you think a shepherd is? What does he do? Do you know any shepherds?
- * Sheep are not very smart. They tend to follow the flock and just do what they see other sheep doing. They also like to wander away and are easy targets for predators, without a watchful shepherd to guide and guard them. Talk about how we are like sheep.
- * Why do you think sheep need a shepherd?
- * What do you think makes a good shepherd?
- * Do you have a pet? If not, what animal would you choose to be your pet? How do you take care of your pet? How would you feel if your pet got lost? What would you do to get it back?
- * Have you ever been lost or scared or had a bad dream? How did that feel? And when you were found or your mom or dad came to your side when you were scared or after the bad dream, how did it feel to know they were there, watching over you and taking care of you and loving you and you were not alone?
- * [John 10:11-15](#) “I know my sheep, and my sheep know me.” That’s all about relationship. **Jesus wants us to enjoy a personal relationship with Him.** Shepherds of Jesus’ time were devoted to their sheep. They talked to them and even sang to them. The shepherd cared so much for every sheep in his flock that he gave a special name to each one. So, if you were a sheep in the sheep pen, not only would you hear the sound of the shepherd’s voice, you would also hear him calling your name. How do you think we can hear the Good Shepherd (Jesus) talk to us or how can we hear His voice?

Weekly Activities

Read Psalm 23 (Jesus Storybook Bible) that is attached. Talk about all the things that the shepherd (God) does for the lamb (us).

Help your kids know the Good shepherd’s truth. Play this true or false game with your kids. Read the statements below and see if they can tell which is found in the bible and which is not. (the statements without a scripture reference are false.)

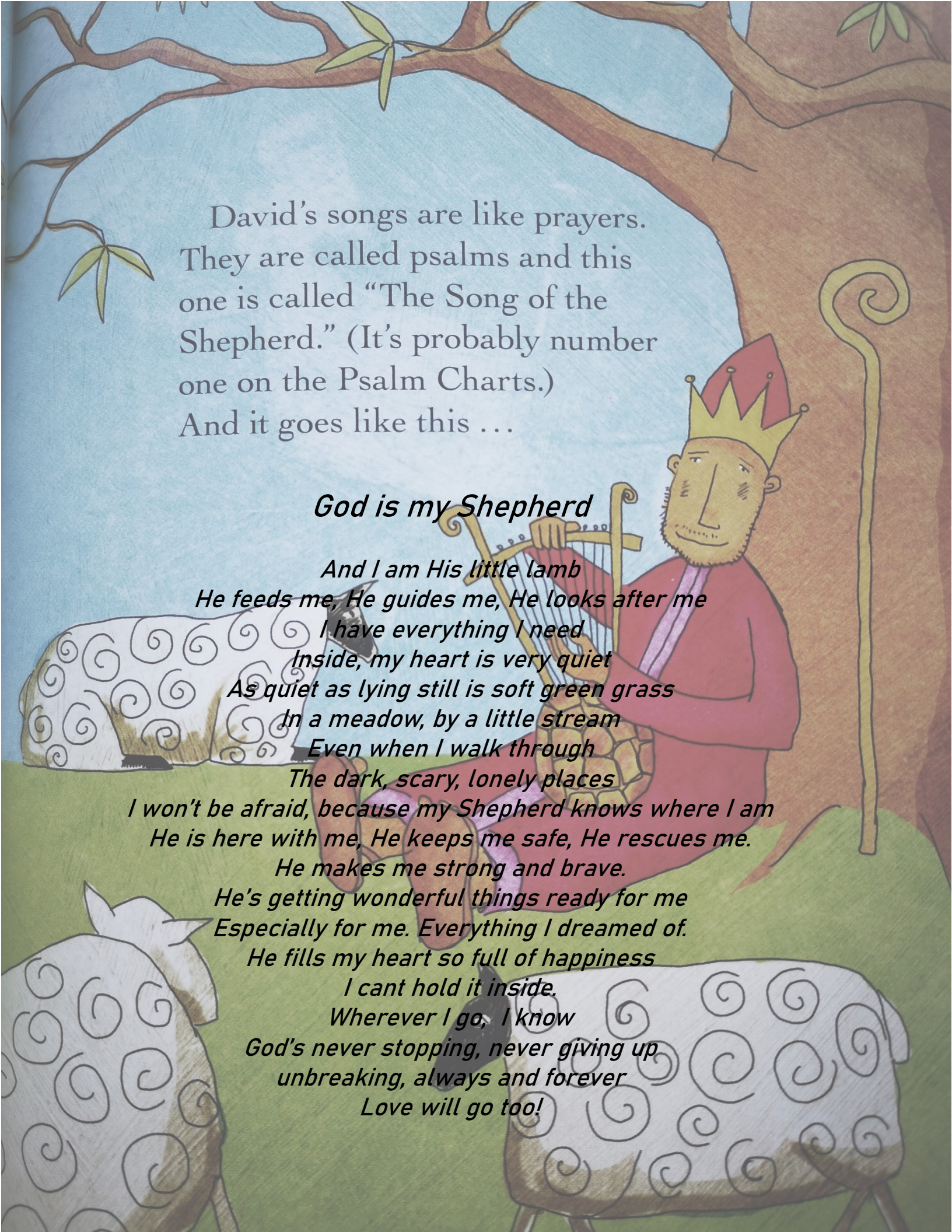
- “You must love one another just as I have loved you” (John 13:34)
- “You must love those who love you and hurt those who hurt you”
- “There are many ways to get eternal life. Following the Son of God is just one of them”
- “Whoever believes in the Son of God has eternal life.” (John 3:36)
- “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.” (John 14:1)
- “Blessed are those who tell small lies. They will get whatever they want.”
- “Blessed are those who make peace. They will be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9)
- “And know that I am not real, but only something that people have made up.”
- “And know that I am with you always, yes, to the end of time.” (Matthew 28:20)

Do you think it’s easy to be a shepherd? To find out for yourself find something — or someone — to shepherd today. It could be a family pet, such as a dog or a cat, or even a younger sibling. Take responsibility for their well-being for an hour. You’re in charge and must make sure that no harm comes to them. You also need to make sure they’re fed and watered. Don’t let them out of your sight! At the end of the day, talk about your experience. Was it easier or harder than you expected? Why?

Jesus is the good shepherd. We can enjoy a forever relationship with Him. Once you trust in Christ to take away your sins and give you eternal life, you belong to Jesus forever. Forever never ends. And, Jesus wants you to enjoy your forever relationship with Him.

Fun Facts

1. Sheep have rectangular pupils and a field of vision of almost 360 degrees, allowing them to see behind themselves without having to turn their head. Can you do that?
2. Sheep also have incredible memories. They can remember fellow sheep as well as humans for many years.
3. Sheep’s wool will grow forever. Back in 2004, ~~Shrek~~ the Merino sheep hid in a cave for six years so he wouldn’t have to get sheared. But the time he was cornered and given his long-overdue haircut, there was enough wool to make 20 men’s suits.
4. Do you think it’s hard to be a shepherd? To find out for yourself how difficult it can be to be a shepherd, find something — or someone — to shepherd today. It could be a family pet, such as a dog or a cat, or even a younger sibling. Take responsibility for their well-being today. You’re in charge and must make sure that no harm comes to them. You also need to make sure they’re fed and watered. Don’t let them out of your sight! At the end of the day, talk with a friend or family member about your experience. Was it easier or harder than you expected? Why? Did anything unexpected happen? How do you think your experience compares to being a real shepherd?



David's songs are like prayers.
They are called psalms and this
one is called "The Song of the
Shepherd." (It's probably number
one on the Psalm Charts.)
And it goes like this ...

God is my Shepherd

*And I am His little lamb
He feeds me, He guides me, He looks after me
I have everything I need
Inside, my heart is very quiet
As quiet as lying still is soft green grass
In a meadow, by a little stream
Even when I walk through
The dark, scary, lonely places
I won't be afraid, because my Shepherd knows where I am
He is here with me, He keeps me safe, He rescues me.
He makes me strong and brave.
He's getting wonderful things ready for me
Especially for me. Everything I dreamed of.
He fills my heart so full of happiness
I can't hold it inside.
Wherever I go, I know
God's never stopping, never giving up
unbreaking, always and forever
Love will go too!*

PSALM 23

Use the picture code to fill in the missing letters of the psalm.
David says that God is like a shepherd.
What does that mean for us?

Th_ L_RD _s my sh_ph_rd,

_ sh_ll n_t w_nt.

H_ m_k_s m_ l_ d_wn

n gr _n p_stur_s;

h_ l_ ds m_

b_s_d_

st_ll w_t_rs;

h_

r_st_r_s

my s_u l.

●	= a
■	= e
▲	= i
◆	= o



PSALM 23:1-3

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