

### LESSON 2

## THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Cares for Us

**SCRIPTURE:** Psalm 23

**GOD'S BIG STORY:** David writes a psalm describing how God is our Good Shepherd, the One who watches out for us and cares for us. God knows exactly what we need and when we need it, and He is our protector and comforter!

**WORD OF WONDER:** How God made me is amazing and wonderful. —from Psalm 139:14

**Activity: Pet Care**

**Activity: Search for the Sheep**

**Worship**

**God's Big Story**

**Snack**

**Word of Wonder**

**Prayer and Blessing**

**Activity: Lost Sheep**

## Activity: Pet Care

**SUPPLIES:** stuffed animals; items to care for the animals such as toy food, bowls, blankets or cushions, leashes

**RESOURCES:** Shepherd Picture 1/SG

Ahead of time, print the Shepherd Picture.

**Welcome to church! I'm so glad you're here. Look what we have today.** Show the kids stuffed animals and items used to care for animals. Talk with the kids about the pets or animals they may have at their homes. **What do your animals eat? Where do they sleep? In what ways does your family provide warmth or comfort to the animals? How do you help your animals exercise (such as taking dogs for a walk)?** Allow the kids to respond to each question.



**Today we'll learn about how a shepherd cares for sheep. A shepherd is a person who takes care of sheep. We'll learn how God is a shepherd to us and how God takes care of us.**

## Activity: Search for the Sheep

**SUPPLIES:** bin, green Easter grass or crinkle paper, small toy animals (including one sheep)

Place green Easter grass or crinkle paper in a bin, along with a variety of small toy animals. Include one sheep.

**Shepherds take care of sheep. If a sheep gets lost, it's the shepherd's job to find it. Can you help find a sheep?**

**You helped take care of the sheep by finding it. This reminds us of God's big story today and how God takes care of us.**

**Our Wonder Truth today is: GOD CARES FOR US.**

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

**GOD**—Point up.

**CARES FOR**—Use both arms to give yourself a hug.

**US**—Point to yourself.

## Worship

**Today we'll learn about how God is our shepherd and how He cares for us. He leads us, guides us, and provides everything we need. Let's sing about the Lord, our shepherd and praise Him for taking such good care of us.**

Play songs from \_\_\_\_\_ and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.

## God's Big Story

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

**RESOURCES:** Bible Story Picture (1/SG)

**Our God's big story today was written by someone named David.** Invite the kids to say, "David."

**Let's find out more!**

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can print a Bible Story Picture to give the kids a visual depiction of the Bible story.

**Can you pretend to be a sheep?** As you tell the story, encourage the kids to pretend to be sheep. They can "bahhh" or act out the things you say in the story.

**In the Bible, there was a man named David who was a shepherd. David made sure to give his sheep everything they needed—like water, food, and safety.** Invite the kids to pretend to be sheep eating and drinking. **David grew up and became a great king of Israel.**

**David wrote this about God:**

**God, You are our shepherd. You take care of us. You know what we need, and You always provide.**

**God, You give us strength and rest.** Invite the kids to pretend to be sheep sleeping.

**God, we know that there will be hard days, but we don't have to be afraid because You are with us. God, You give good things to us. You give us everything we need.**

**God, You are so good, and Your love for us is so big.**

**Just like with David, the Lord—that's another name for God—is always with us too. God cares for us like a shepherd cares for his sheep. He protects, guides, and gives. We can trust Him. Let's all say it out loud together: God cares for us!** Invite kids to respond.

## Snack

Instruct kids to sit in the floor. Pass out snacks and say a prayer together.

Invite kids to repeat after you:

**Thank you for the world so sweet.** kids repeat

**Thank you for the food we eat.** kids repeat

**Thank you for the birds that sing.** kids repeat

**Thank you God for everything.** kids repeat

**Amen**

## Word of Wonder

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

### WORD OF WONDER

How God made me is amazing and wonderful.

—from Psalm 139:14

Our Word of Wonder for the Wonderfully Made series is from Psalm 139:14. Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together. Practice the verse with the kids.

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **HOW GOD**—Point up with both hands.
- **MADE ME**—Point to yourself with two thumbs.
- **IS AMAZING**—Put one arm out to your side for each word.
- **AND WONDERFUL**.—Burst both arms up and out to the sides at the same time.
- **FROM PSALM 139:14**—Hold your hands open in front of you, as if holding a book.

## Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God.

Dear God, thank You for loving us and leading us. We thank You for giving us everything we need. You are the Good Shepherd. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

**Blessing:** The Lord is your shepherd. He wants to lead you. He wants to provide for you and comfort you. May you always remember that He's with you and cares for you.

## Activity: Lost Sheep

**SUPPLIES:** toy sheep or stuffed animal, green paper (optional), fabric (optional), tablecloth (optional)

Sometimes sheep wander away, and it's the shepherd's job to find them. If the sheep comes to a scary place like the edge of a cliff, the shepherd may need to use the hook on their staff to pull the sheep back to safety.

Let's pretend we're shepherds, and we have lost a sheep! We're going to take turns looking for our lost sheep. Close your eyes or turn to face away from me. I will tell you when it's time to search.

Hide the toy sheep somewhere in the room. Let the kids take turns being the shepherd to search for the sheep. If you need more hiding spots, you could use green paper, fabric, or a tablecloth to make some

We can remember that God is our shepherd. God takes care of us and gives us everything we need!