

WEEK 2 | ELEMENTARY (K-3) | FAMILY LESSON GUIDE

Need to Know: God Is My Shepherd

Bible Story: David

Bible Reference: Psalm 23



READ THE BIBLE

DO Read the **Bible Story Cards** aloud to the group.

- SAY**
- *What was the shepherd's job? (To love and protect the sheep) Right! A shepherd takes care of his sheep, and because God takes care of you and me, we can call Him our good Shepherd.*
 - *Do you think God will ever leave us? (No) That's right! The Bible tells us that He is always with us and there isn't anything He wouldn't do to help us.*

LET'S PRACTICE

- DO**
1. Place **Pasture Cards** in the center of the group, pasture-side up.
 2. If you have a large enough group, divide into two teams.
 3. Allow teams to take turns selecting one Card.
 - If the Card has a sheep on the back, read it aloud and let the team keep it.
 - If it has a wolf, it will be returned to the pasture.
 4. After each child has had a turn, the team with the most sheep wins!

SAY *God is our Good Shepherd! So say this after me: (Pause to allow kids to repeat)*
God Is (both hands point up)
My Shepherd (walk in place)

LET'S PRAY

PRAY

Dear God, thank You for being our Shepherd. Please help us trust that You are loving, guiding, and protecting us always! We love You! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SAY

In this series, we're learning all about the different names of God. That's because there is a promise in God's Word, the Bible, that tells us what happens when we know His name. This Bible verse says: (Pause to allow kids to repeat)

"Those who know Your name (point to side of head)

trust in You, (hand over heart)

for You, O Lord, (point up)

do not abandon (shake head "no")

those who search for You." (make binoculars over eyes)

Psalm 9:10 (make book with hands)

DO

Have everyone put their feet in the middle of the group. Going around the circle, have each person say one word of the verse while stomping one of their feet. The person who stomps their foot on "9:10" is out. Play until only one foot remains, or as time allows.

Place **coloring utensils and pencils** in the center of the group. Then, give each child a **Memory Verse Coloring Sheet** and Dot-to-Dot Activity Sheet to complete.



David

Psalms 23

There's a guy in the Bible named David. When he was younger, he was a shepherd. Shepherds were the people who took care of sheep by leading them to food in green pastures and making sure they had water to drink from the streams.

If a sheep wandered away from the flock, the shepherd would go find it and bring it back.

If a sheep fell down between the rocks and the shepherd couldn't reach it, the shepherd would use his crook to help rescue the sheep and lift it to safety.

Shepherds also protected the sheep from harm, such as wolves or even thieves.



Being a shepherd really helped David learn a lot about God, and he wrote all about it in Psalm 23. Here's what David wrote ...

"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."



Then David wrote:

“Even if I walk through a very dark valley, 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.”



Just like a shepherd loves and protects his sheep, God does that for us, too! God will tell us the right way to go, and He'll make sure we have all we need. If we ever feel scared or alone, we can trust that He is there with us!



A shepherd loves his sheep. Do you think God loves you? (Yes) We know our Shepherd loves us because He takes care of us, He knows us by our names, and He speaks in a kind way to us.

Wk 2 - K-3 - Pasture Cards



A good shepherd gives his sheep everything they could ever need. What is one thing you need that God gives to you? (Allow responses) Thank you for sharing! We can never tell God, "Thank you," enough for all He has given to us!

Wk 2 - K-3 - Pasture Cards



A good shepherd protects his sheep. When you're in a situation that makes you feel afraid or worried, how can you trust God? (Pray, read your Bible, sing worship songs) We can trust God to protect us because He is a good, loving Shepherd. He always protects His sheep!

Wk 2 - K-3 - Pasture Cards



A good shepherd rules over the sheep. That means the sheep belong to him! Who do we belong to? (God) Because God is all-knowing and He's in control of everything, we can trust Him! As our Shepherd, He rules over us and protects us from harm.

Wk 2 - K-3 - Pasture Cards



A good shepherd guides the sheep to wherever they need to go. When we are following our good Shepherd, do you think He will lead us to what's best for us? (Yes) That's right! What can we read to know which way God wants us to go? (The Bible)

Wk 2 - K-3 - Pasture Cards



John 10:11 says, "The good Shepherd gives His life for His sheep." Do you know who gave His life for you? (Jesus) God loved us so much that He gave His only Son to pay for the wrong things that we do. God did this to show us that there is nothing He wouldn't do to save us, His sheep!

Wk 2 - K-3 - Pasture Cards



Sheep are helpless on their own. Sometimes they wander off or get stuck. Who helps the sheep when they need it? (The shepherd) That's right! And just like those little sheep need a shepherd, we need God's help every single day!

Wk 2 - K-3 - Pasture Cards



If a shepherd doesn't lead the sheep to graze in the field, they would never eat and would always be hungry. What is one thing that you need that you can ask your good Shepherd, God, to give to you? (Allow responses) Those are all great things that you can ask God for!

Wk 2 - K-3 - Pasture Cards



On their own, sheep don't make good choices. Have you ever made a wrong choice? (Yes) Who helps lead you back to the right things? (God) That's right! God, our Shepherd, loves us. So, we can trust Him to lead us to the right things. Even if we've messed up, He'll always help us get back on the right path.

Wk 2 - K-3 - Pasture Cards



Sheep are weak, and sometimes they get tired or hurt. Have you ever gotten hurt playing outside or bumped your head on something inside? (Allow responses) Well, the Bible tells us that if we are tired or hurting we can come to God and He will take care of us because He is a good Shepherd.

Wk 2 - K-3 - Pasture Cards



Do you think a sheep knows what's best for itself? (No) That's right! Just like the sheep, we may think we know what's best for ourselves. But who really knows and does what's best for us? (God, our Shepherd) Yes! Our Shepherd always does what's best for us!

Wk 2 - K-3 - Pasture Cards



Do you think a shepherd ever stops loving their sheep? (No) Just like the shepherd loves and cares for the sheep no matter what, we can trust God to always love and care for us. Let's say what we need to know together:

God Is (point up)

My Shepherd (walk in place)

Wk 2 - K-3 - Pasture Cards



Wk 2 - K-3 - Pasture Cards



Wk 2 - K-3 - Pasture Cards



Wk 2 - K-3 - Pasture Cards



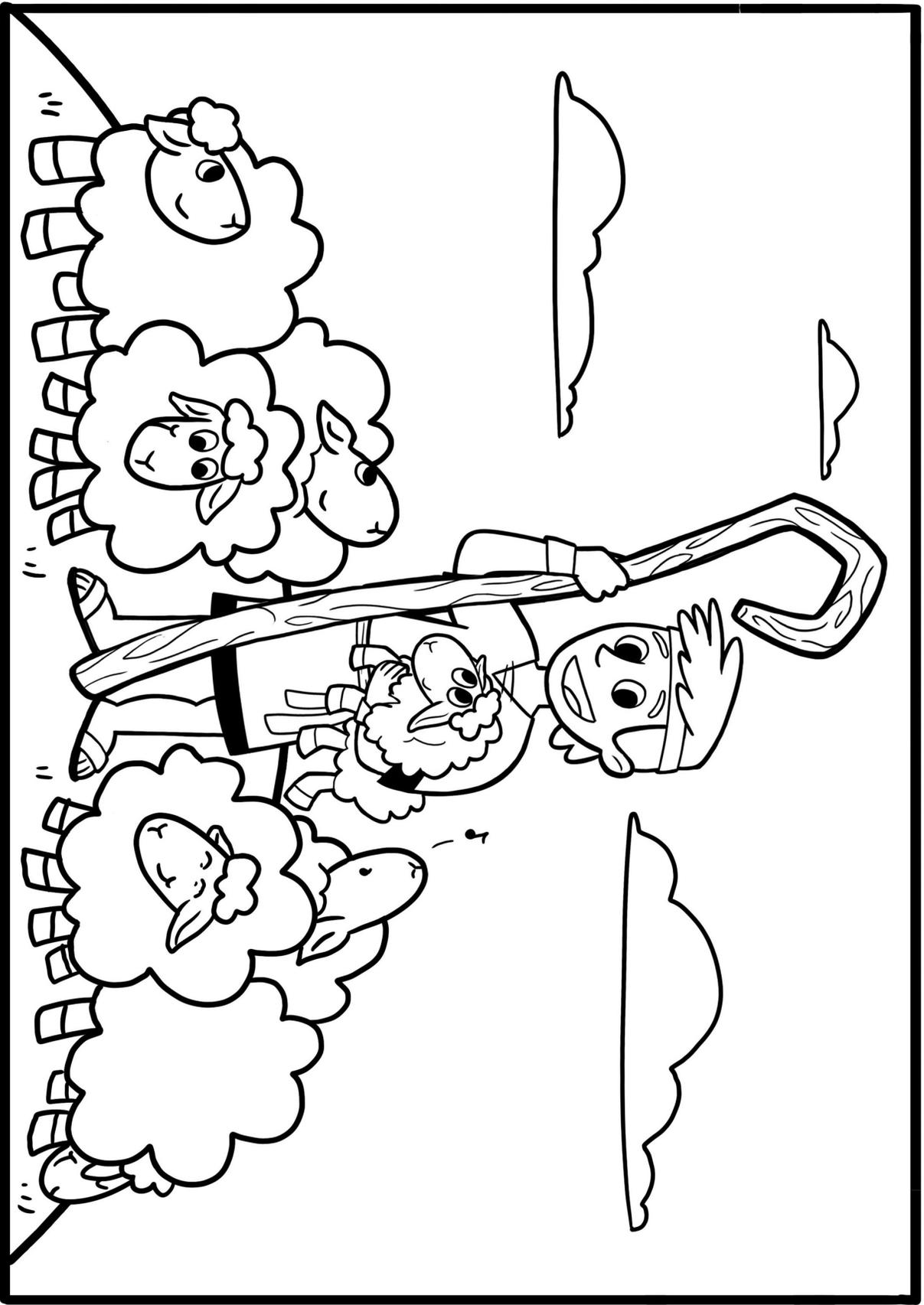
Wk 2 - K-3 - Pasture Cards



Wk 2 - K-3 - Pasture Cards



Wk 2 - K-3 - Pasture Cards



Week 2 • Today's Need to Know: God Is My Shepherd

Today's Bible Story: David (Psalm 23)

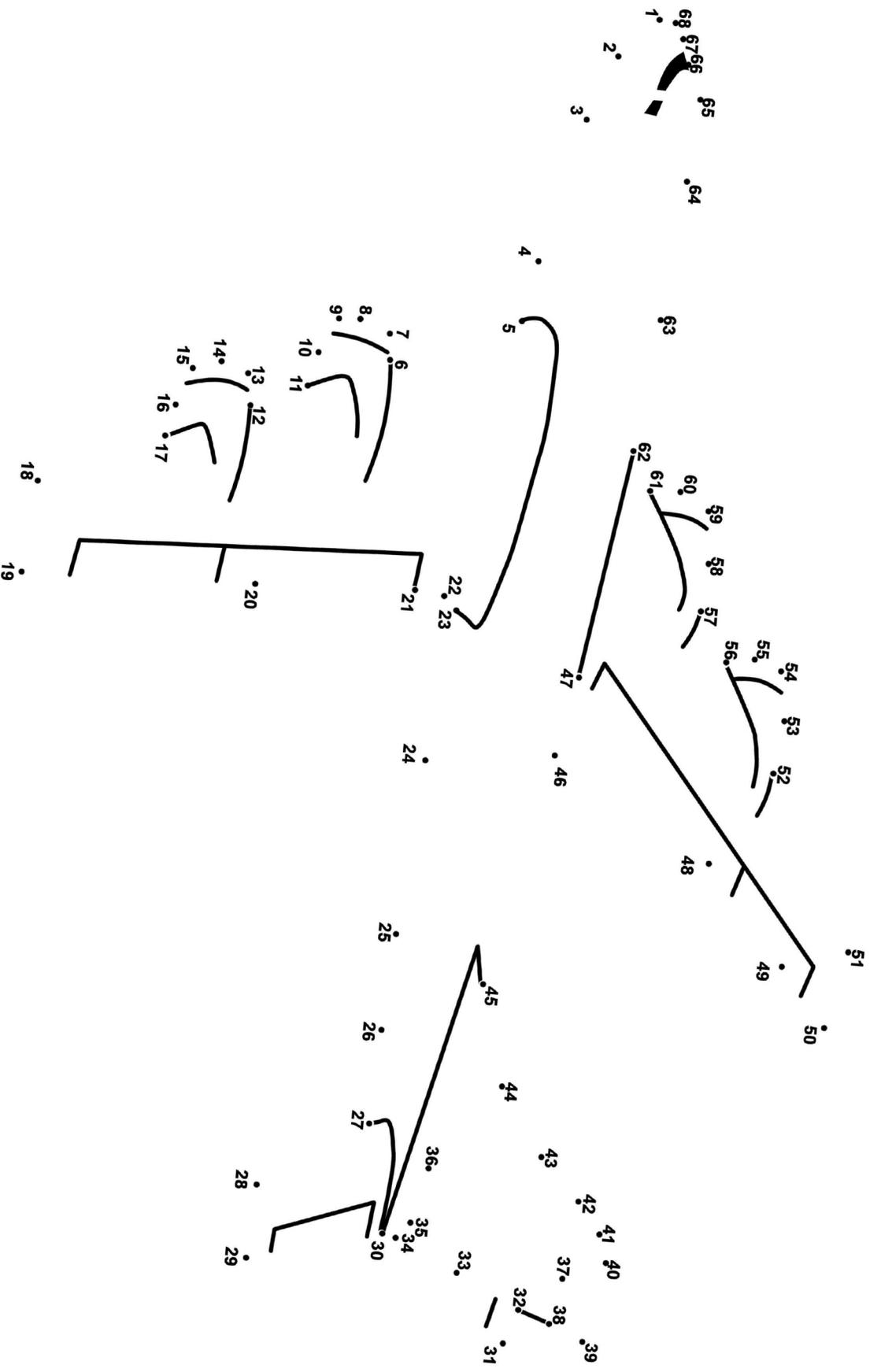
Series Memory Verse: "Those who know Your name trust in You, for You, O Lord, do not abandon those who search for You." Psalm 9:10 (NLT)



Name _____

Let's Take A Trip!

Connect the dots to see how we'll travel!



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