



# MOSAIC Gospel Project

## Volume 4, Unit 11, Lesson 6: David's Psalm

**Bible Passage:** Psalm 23

### Personal Preparation

The Book of Psalms contains 150 psalms—poems, songs, and prayers—from a time in Israel's history spanning from Moses (about the 1400s BC) to Israel's exile to Babylon (about the 500s BC). Nearly half of the psalms are attributed to King David.

David wrote Psalm 23, one of the most well-known psalms in the Bible. David's background as a shepherd equipped him to use the imagery of sheep and a shepherd to describe the Lord's guidance and care for his people. When Samuel went to Jesse to anoint one of his sons, David was with the sheep (1 Sam. 16:19). David's experience protecting his father's sheep gave him confidence in the Lord's ability to deliver his children (1 Sam. 17:37).

David compared God's love, protection, and guidance for his people to that provided by a shepherd for his sheep. A shepherd leads his sheep to pastures where they can find food. He watches over his sheep to protect them from danger. He cares for them, lifting a fallen sheep from a pit and ensuring that not one is lost.

This was David's experience of the Lord. He provided for David's needs. He led him to places of peace and rest. He guided him on the right paths. The Lord was with David, and he is with us.

Point the individuals to Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Jesus had compassion on the crowds who were "like sheep without a shepherd" (Matt. 9:36). Jesus said, "I am the

good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11). Jesus laid down his life to save people from sin. He assured his disciples that when he returns, he will gather his sheep from among the nations and welcome them into his kingdom (Matt. 25:32-34). Because of Jesus, we have hope because one day we will live with God forever. Take time to thank God for sending his Son, Jesus, to lay down his life to save us. Pray that the individuals would know God's love and care for them and accept the salvation offered in Jesus.

### Memory Verse

Begin the lesson by reviewing the memory verse with the group. This is the last lesson with this memory verse.

#### Psalm 145:13

*"For your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. You rule throughout all generations. The Lord always keeps his promises; he is gracious in all he does."*

### Points of Emphasis

1. David wrote a psalm to praise God.
2. Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.

### Activity #1

Lead the group to begin working on the activity sheet. Feel free to let the individuals continue working as you teach the lesson.

### Video

**We learned a few weeks back that God chose David to be king instead of Saul. Generally,**

David was a good king. David showed mercy even though Saul hated him. God promised David that the Messiah would come from David's family. David showed kindness to Jonathan's son. But even though David was a good king, he was not perfect. David was a sinner. David repented and God forgave him, but only Jesus never sinned at all. Through it all, David's relationship to God grew. David trusted God the way a sheep trusts a good shepherd. Let's hear what David wrote about that.

Play the video for the lesson titled "David's Psalm."

### Bible Lesson

David wrote a psalm to praise God. This psalm is one of the most famous and popular passages in the entire Bible. Many people who don't even love God are familiar with the words of this passage.

In this psalm, David talks about God giving us the things we need. A green pasture means healthy grass for sheep to eat. Quiet water means a safe place to drink water. A rod and a staff were tools a shepherd used to guide sheep and fend off predators who might want to kill and eat sheep.

So how is God like a shepherd for us? Well, in the New Testament, Jesus said that he gives us living water. Jesus also calls himself the bread of life. Jesus gives us the spiritual food and water we need to survive. When Jesus died for our sin and rose again, he defeated sin and death, our greatest enemies. Then Jesus sent the Holy Spirit, who provides us with the power and wisdom we need to follow Jesus.

In fact, Jesus even said plainly that he is the Good Shepherd who knows his sheep. The Bible teaches that we wander from God like lost sheep, but Jesus seeks us out to reunite us with God.

### Activity #2

Guide the group to finish working on the activity sheet. Review the memory verse with the group and help them learn it. Encourage the individuals to write the verse using the Velcro pictures. This is the last week with this memory verse.

### Christ Connection

David compared God's love, protection, and guidance for his people to what a shepherd provides for his sheep. Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He laid down his life to save people from sin. Because of Jesus, we have hope that one day we will live with God forever.

Play the Gospel Presentation video. Discuss the gospel with the individuals and answer any questions they might have. Help them think through what the gospel could mean for their lives.

### Review Questions

*(Optional: Play the Questions from Kids (QFK) video to continue the discussion on David's psalm. Today's episode asks how we can trust God when life is hard.)*

Group A

Early Learner

Encourage the individuals to point to the pictures provided or to draw in order to answer these questions.

1. **Who wrote many of the psalms, or songs, in the Bible?** David
2. **What did David say God is like?** A shepherd
3. **Who did David say would comfort and protect him?** God

Group B

1. **David wrote that the Lord renews what?** Life
2. **According to Psalm 23, why didn't David fear danger?** God was with him; God's rod and staff comforted him.
3. **Where did David say he would live?** In the house of the Lord

4. **What are some ways Jesus is like a good shepherd?** Guide the individuals to think about the ways Jesus gives us what we need. Jesus provides us with protection from our greatest enemies, sin and death. Invite the individuals to share ways or times that Jesus has led them to love and obey God.
5. **What are some ways we are like sheep?** Discuss the idea that people are “herd” animals. We often want to follow the crowd even if the crowd is going the wrong way. Sheep tend to be animals that are not good at defending themselves against predators. Compare a sheep’s helplessness without a shepherd to our helplessness without Jesus.
6. **How do you feel about God when you hear the words of this psalm?** Guide the individuals to speak openly and honestly about what they think and feel. If they seem stuck or hesitant, offer up your own feelings about Psalm 23. Encourage them that there are no wrong answers, and remind them that God would rather they speak honestly than pretend to love him if they do not yet love him.

#### Group C

1. **In what ways is God like a shepherd?** Lead the individuals to discuss some of the descriptions given in Psalm 23. Help them draw on their knowledge of shepherds and sheep as they recount God’s protection and care for his people.
2. **Why do you think people sometimes wander from God?** Allow the individuals to share their own ideas. Consider why sheep wander from a shepherd (distracted, not paying attention, foolish, enticed by something, and so on).
3. **How is Psalm 23 comforting to you?** Invite the individuals to share what words or phrases are most meaningful to them. Remind them that when we trust in Jesus, we are his sheep and he is our Good Shepherd.

#### Group D

##### Advanced Learner

1. **What does this story teach us about God?** Like a shepherd, God is with us even in hard times. A shepherd uses a rod to protect the sheep and a staff to lift them out of dangerous places. God guides us and protects us too. Sheep can trust their shepherd completely, and we can trust God completely.
2. **What shepherd-like descriptions did David use of God?** David realized that God is like a shepherd, and we are like sheep. God protects us and takes care of us. David wrote, “He lets me rest in green pastures; he leads me beside quiet waters. He gives me strength, and he leads me along the right paths.”
3. **What can you do when you begin to doubt God in difficult times?**
4. **How can you show God’s love to others?**

#### Prayer

**God, without your loving guidance and protection, we would have no hope. Thank you for sending Jesus, our Good Shepherd and perfect King of kings. Help us trust in him for salvation. Amen.**

