

Sunday 3rd May Psalm 23



Shepherds have to go out in all sorts of weather to tend to their sheep. Watch and listen to this clip very carefully and take notice of the writing at the bottom of the screen then see if you can answer some questions!

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Coq_grSFINs

Did you see or hear the sheep first?

Were the sheep all the same and how many do you think there were ! (You can always try counting them by watching the clip again Do you think the shepherd recognised and cared about his sheep and did the sheep know him ?



Now see if you can find a bible.

Hold it in one hand and put a finger from your other hand where you think the bible would naturally fall open in the middle with about the same number of pages on each side. What book of the bible does it open at?

Not always, but very often it is the book of Psalms or very close to it, right there in the middle.

The Book of Psalms is in the Old Testament and it brought together 150 psalms about two and a half thousand years ago into one place. Psalms are the songs and hymns of God's people which are still spoken, sung and loved today as they have been for generations.

Psalm 23 is one of the very best known and loved.

Below are the words of the psalm for you to read or listen to and at the end of the sheet there are a selection of musical interpretations of the psalm sung by different groups of people. Perhaps after you have read or listened to the psalm you could pick and listen to one of the musical pieces. Later when you are doing the activity, you can pick others and see which is the most popular in your family.

Psalm 23 (CEV)

You, Lord are my shepherd
I will never be in need
You let me rest in fields
of green grass.
You lead me to streams
of peaceful water,
and you refresh my life.

You are true to your name,
and you lead me
along the right paths.
I may walk through valleys
as dark as death
but I won't be afraid.
You are with me,
and your shepherd's rod
makes me feel safe.

You treat me to a feast,
while enemies watch.
You honour me as your guest,
and fill my cup
until it overflows.

Your kindness and love
will always be with me
each day of my life,
and I will live forever
in your house, Lord.



Sunday 3rd May Psalm 23 cont.



By using the picture of God being a shepherd the writer of the psalm allows people to imagine how a flock of sheep are cared for as they travel. In Jesus' time shepherds led from the front, carrying their rods, watching for any dangers that might come, taking their sheep on paths through different countryside and keeping them safe.

The psalm is also a word picture of what God's presence in our lives means and how it can make us feel. It describes what confidence and comfort God brings, that God can be trusted and that there is safety and that God loves and cares for us.



Maybe the feeling of security and never ending love is part of the reason that this psalm is so important to people?

I wonder if the disciples read or heard the Psalm 23 during the momentous days after the resurrection when they were worried, wary, excited and overwhelmed?

I wonder if they remembered Jesus telling a parable about a lost sheep and how the shepherd went looking for the last sheep of the 100 and rejoiced when he was found? Parables tell us about God - I wonder what this one means?



https://sermons4kids.com/psalm_23_crossword.htm

The crossword about Psalm 23 has words below it to help you with the answers but two of them you have to work out yourself!

Musical links

Here are the links to listen to the psalm with music:



- ❖ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p024q135>
Vicar of Dibley version
- ❖ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p05n1dyd>
Crimond words on screen
- ❖ <https://youtu.be/EJtVTYTxYQU>
Brother James' Air with words 1998
- ❖ <https://youtu.be/CKvTPzJFf3M>
Aled Jones and son

Prayer

Jesus
You are our good shepherd
Be with everyone who needs your love,
Comfort, and care right now.
Amen.

