

# Lesson B2.6 - God Takes Care of Us



## Teacher's Pages with Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

### For Lower Elementary Students and Classes

Recommended for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2.

### Quick Facts for the Teacher

#### Lesson Summary: Psalm 23

- Bible Characters: The Singer and the People

The Book of Psalms served as the hymn book for the people of Israel. The songs and poetry it contains reflect a range of human emotions, from joy to sadness. Similar to the songs we sing in church today, many of the psalms were used in worship, accompanied by musicians, to give praise to the Lord!

#### Brief Bible Background

- Today's Lesson is from the Old Testament
- Scripture Section: Writings

Throughout the Old Testament are books of poetry, proverbs, and songs. Most of these writings are not attached to a particular time or place, but reflect the good and bad times we all experience.

#### For More Information

The primary role of a Sunday School teacher for Preschool, Kindergarten (pre-readers), and Early Elementary (new readers) is to simply tell children the stories of Scripture and introduce them to the major characters of the Bible.

*Teachers who want to know more about the lessons for their own familiarity with the story are encouraged to read the information in the SEED Upper Elementary and Youth Teacher's Pages.*

### a. Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class and greet students and parents by name. Write the day's Bible Message on the white board or poster board for all the kids to see. Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Encourage the children to learn each other's names.

### b. Opening Prayer Song

This same opening song should be sung every week with young kids — remember, repetition is good. The words to this song are sung to the tune “A Sailor Went to Sea, Sea, Sea.” Feel free to clap along!

**God welcomes you today, day, day  
to listen, learn and play, play, play.**

**So hear me when I say, say, say  
it's time to start! Let's pray, pray, pray:**

All lift hands and say: **Please bless us, Lord. Amen!**

### c. Introduction to Today's Message

*Teacher's Script (student responses are in **bold**).*

Have you ever had a pet? Maybe you helped take care of it and kept it safe. Did you know **God takes care of us**, too? Say that with me: **God takes care of us!**

Who are some ways people take care of animals?  
[Choose a child to answer.]

What are some ways that God takes care of you? [By giving us food to eat, water to drink, sunshine and rain, people who love us to watch over us, etc.]

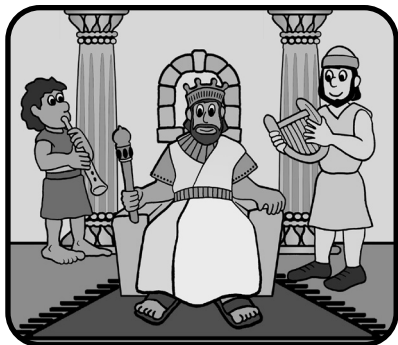
Today we'll learn how God is our Good Shepherd. Just like a shepherd cares for sheep, **God takes care of us**. We have nothing to fear in this life when we trust that **God takes care of us!**

### d. SEED Bible Story Video

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This may be displayed simply on a laptop computer or tablet. If the classroom is equipped with a computer video monitor or video projector, the video can be displayed in a larger size.

### e. Read the Story with Poster Pictures

The Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture. The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading. Posters may be printed on letter-sized paper, or enlarged and printed on ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available. Poster pictures may also be opened as a PDF on a computer screen, scrolling through each of the four pages.

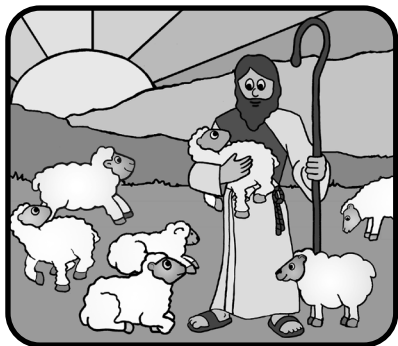


#### Picture 1

*Tell the children:* Do you like music? The ancient people of the Bible did too! In fact, the Book of Psalms was their songbook, filled with lots of different poems and songs that they could sing.

*Read the caption:* King David loved music. He wrote many songs called Psalms. These told about David's life and about God's love and care.

- What other word does "Psalms," sound like? [It sounds a little like the word, "songs." And interestingly, the book of Psalms is the Bible's songbook!]
- What are the people around David doing? [Playing different instruments.]

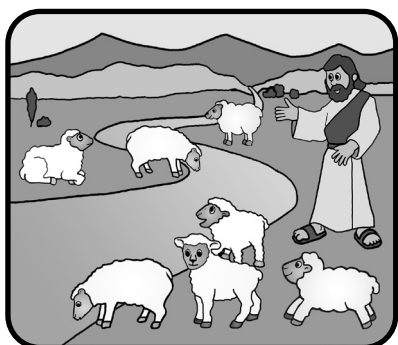


#### Picture 2

*Tell the children:* One of David's most famous songs is Psalm 23. David had taken care of sheep as a boy. In this psalm, he compares people to sheep who have a good shepherd. Listen for who the Good Shepherd is.

*Read the caption:* Psalm 23 begins like this: "The Lord is my Shepherd. I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures."

- What does a shepherd do? [A shepherd takes care of the sheep, protecting them from wolves and making sure they have enough food (grass) and good water.]
- How do the sheep look in the picture? [Happy. They feel safe and protected.]



#### Picture 3

*Tell the children:* Did you hear it? "The Lord" is my shepherd. God is like a kind and loving shepherd who cares for his little sheep — us! What else does a good shepherd do? King David continues:

*Read the caption:* The psalm also says: "He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul." God takes care of us and gives us all we need.

- Why does a shepherd have to "lead" the sheep? [Sheep sometimes wander off.]
- How can people "wander off"? [By getting so busy doing other things that we forget God; by not going to church where we can hear God's Word, etc.]



#### Picture 4

*Tell the children:* But that's not all! The psalm goes on to tell us that our Good Shepherd (God) brings us to water, gives us rest, walks with us in dark valleys, keeps us safe, gives us the food we need, and helps us in every way.

*Read the caption:* Psalm 23 uses many word pictures to tell us about God. The Bible wants us to know that God loves us! We can trust him always.

- What's a "dark valley"? [A place where mountains are so high they block the sun.]
- Sometimes we go through things that make us feel like we're in a "dark valley," where problems seem so big that we can't see any hope. How does God help us in those times? [He walks with us and reminds us that we are not alone.]

Remember today's message: **God takes care of us!**

**f. Bible Story Rhyme (optional)**

The Bible Story Rhyme below is the same one found on the Upper Elementary Student sheet. The teacher can read the beginning of the line and see if the children can finish the last rhyming word of the phrase.

*My Shepherd is the Lord of all.  
He leads me through the grasses tall.  
He brings me by the waters calm,  
protecting me from every harm.  
I need not fear the scary place  
when I see his smiling face,  
for always by my side he'll be;  
his rod and staff, they comfort me.  
He gives me all I need and more;  
he will my troubled soul restore.  
All my days he'll stay with me,  
and in his house I'll always be.*

**g. Young Children's Activity (optional)**

Simple in-class craft activities may be completed by the children if there is time left at the end of class. (*Note: For the youngest children, simply providing crayons and letting them complete the Coloring Page may serve as the "craft" for the day.*)

**Craft: The Lord's My Shepherd****Materials Needed:**

- Light colored card stock
- Pencils, thin markers, crayons
- School glue
- Cotton rounds
- Scissors

**Instructions:**

Give each person a piece of card stock, a pencil, markers, glue, 3 cotton rounds and scissors. Have kids draw Jesus in the center of the card stock, using pencil. Then, invite them to draw a background hill or field. Trace everything with marker and color it in with crayons.

Next, using a thin black marker, kids can draw a sheep face and ears in the center of a cotton round. (*See illustration above.*) Use scissors to trim around the edge of the round, making it wavy. Repeat for the other two cotton rounds. Glue these in place, and draw legs on the page with black marker.

Invite kids to write, "The Lord's My Shepherd" at the top of the page. The youngest kids may need help with this.

**h. Song (optional)**

This song can be found on YouTube or other music sites. If you have rhythm instruments, let kids play along and keep the beat for this cheerful hymn.

**He Leadeth Me**

**He leadeth me: O blessed thought!  
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!**

**Whate'er I do, where'er I be,  
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.**

*Refrain:*

**He leadeth me, he leadeth me;  
by his own hand he leadeth me:**

**his faithful follower I would be,  
for by his hand he leadeth me**

**i. Story Review: Then What Happened?**

*Then What Happened* is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember the flow of events. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. There are two rules: each student may only add one sentence or say one new thing, and events in the story need to be in the right order.

► **Start: King David had been a shepherd as a boy, and he always loved music. Then what happened?**

*If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page into four pieces (with no words) and let the kids put the illustrations in order while they tell the story.*

**j. Closing Prayer**

Send the children home with the Take-Home Page, and tell them to ask their parents to read the story to them again (or, perhaps, they can read it to their parents).

End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

*Dear God, we thank you for this day,  
And as we go along our way,  
We ask your blessing, and your care,  
On friends and family everywhere.  
Please bless our church, and teachers too,  
And help us always follow you. Amen.*