GENESIS TO REVELATION | POETRY

The Shepherd's Song of Care

Psalm 23:1-6



YOUR BIBLE READING

The poem pictures God’s care without pretending that dark valleys do not exist.

Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

A Song That Calls God a Shepherd

Psalm 23:1-6



Psalm 23 is poetry, a song associated with David. It speaks through pictures rather than giving a new account of a flock's journey. The speaker calls God a shepherd and describes having what is needed under that care. Sheep depend on a shepherd for guidance, food, and protection. The poem draws on that familiar work to express trust, helping readers picture care through something ordinary and concrete.

Green pastures and quiet waters are the next images. The speaker describes being led to rest and refreshment. Grass and water belong to the needs of living creatures; the pictures are not only beautiful scenery. In the poem, rest is part of care rather than a prize for being the busiest. The language gives listeners room to imagine a place where a weary creature can receive what it needs without having to provide everything for itself.

The song then speaks of restoration and guidance on right paths. Its shepherd does more than point from far away. The speaker trusts God's leadership for the sake of God's name. A right path here belongs to a life directed toward what is good. This is poetic language for guidance, not a promise that a reader will receive a visible map showing every decision they must make tomorrow or next year.

The scene changes to a dark valley, described as the shadow of death. The song does not avoid that frightening place. The speaker addresses God directly, trusting his presence and finding comfort in the shepherd's rod and staff. The valley remains in the poem, but the speaker is not alone there. Its hope concerns companionship and care within danger, rather than a claim that those who trust God never walk through hard places.

Remember: I can seek care and speak honestly in hard places as well as peaceful ones.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

A Table, a Full Cup, and a Lasting Home

Psalm 23:1-6



The next picture is a prepared table in the presence of enemies. The poem shifts from the work of a shepherd toward the welcome of a host. Food is set out even where opposition is present. The song does not say that every enemy has vanished before the table can be prepared. It pictures provision and welcome without pretending that the speaker's world contains no conflict, fear, or people who wish harm.

Oil on the head and a cup filled to overflowing continue the image of generous care. These are poetic details of welcome, not instructions for a child to pour oil on someone or demand an unusually large drink. A table, oil, and a full cup help the listener picture being received with honor rather than ignored. The language says something about the character of the welcome by showing what such a host provides.

Goodness and loving kindness are described as following the speaker through life. The song ends with dwelling in God's house. The image has moved from open pastures through a dark valley to a lasting home. These changes make the short poem rich enough to read slowly. It can be heard as a statement of trust across different experiences, not simply a cheerful description of one day that contains nothing difficult.

Because this is poetry, we do not need to invent a named sheep, a lost lamb, or a conversation between David and a shepherd. We can attend to the pictures the psalm actually gives. Nor should the opening about lacking nothing be turned into a promise that faithful people never experience hunger, illness, or grief. The song teaches a voice of trust and hope while including the valley and the presence of enemies within its own lines.

Pause and think: Which image in the psalm helps you describe the kind of care someone might need?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

Listen to the Pictures in a Poem



Choose one picture from the song: grass, quiet water, a staff, a table, or a cup. What part of care does it help you imagine? You might draw the picture and explain your choice in a sentence. There is no need to turn it into an extra event from David's life. A poem can help us understand something by showing an image rather than telling a whole adventure.

Think about dependable care in your own world. A meal prepared, someone listening, a safe journey home, or help after a frightening experience may all be examples. They are not promises that every difficulty will disappear. With an adult, name one person you can approach when you need support. Knowing how to ask is part of taking your needs seriously.

The dark valley belongs in the song alongside the green pasture. If you feel sad or afraid, you do not have to pretend that you are always peaceful. You can speak to a trusted adult and, if you wish, use prayer or the psalm's images to express hope. Rest, practical help, and patient company can all be part of receiving care.

A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

Psalm 23 uses shepherd and host pictures to express trust in God’s care, including within difficult places.

Which image in the psalm helps you describe the kind of care someone might need?

Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Think about the reading

1. What two kinds of caring work appear in the psalm's pictures?

2. Does the poem leave out dark or dangerous places?

2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ Read about companionship in the dark valley.
- ☐ Consider the host’s table and the hope of lasting care.
- ☐ Notice the shepherd’s pasture, water, and guidance.

3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw three panels with a green pasture, a path through a valley, and a welcoming table.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

Read & Grow Together

Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

Remember this

I can seek care and speak honestly in hard places as well as peaceful ones.
Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation. Related passage: Psalm 23:1-6

A thoughtful conversation

Identify this as poetry associated with David, not a literal journey involving a named sheep. The shepherd and host images express trust while including danger and enemies. Do not promise that prayer removes hunger, illness, or grief. Give children space to name fear and receive practical help rather than perform constant calm.

Activity answers

1. The care of a shepherd and the welcome of a host.
2. No. It includes a dark valley and the presence of enemies.
Sequence boxes, top to bottom: 2, 3, 1. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

Optional prayer

If you wish: God, help me receive care and find honest words in peaceful and difficult times.

Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on Psalm 23:1-6. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration © Sweet Publishing; 19_Ps_23_01_RG.jpg. CC BY-SA 3.0. Source: unfoldingWord. Resized proportionally, without cropping.
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