

The Psalms

Psalm 1; Psalm 23

How many gods are there?

There is one true God who alone deserves worship.

"" ...So that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God and that there is no other."
1 Kings 8:60

Story Point:

God's way is best. He is our good shepherd.



PREPARE HEARTS

- ☐ Welcome - LEFC Kids Expectations
- ☐ Starter Activity - Yarn Toss



ACTIVATE HEARTS

- ☐ 9:20 - Bible Lesson in LG2
- ☐ Review and discuss the Bible Story
- ☐ Reflection and Prayer
- ☐ Questions from Kids Video



ENGAGE HEARTS

- ☐ Key Passage Activity - White Board Race
- ☐ Group Activity - Which Path? Sorting Game
- ☐ Group Activity - Cotton Ball Relay

SHEPHERD GUIDE

Why Reading the Psalms with Kids Is Awesome - Taken from an article by Alissa Ellett

Reading the Psalms with kids exposes them to a wide range of human emotion. Those who penned the Psalms wrote from their hearts in all seasons of life. As a result, we read a wide range of emotional experience. Consequently, children learn to name their emotions, realize their emotions are normal and valuable and are encouraged to share them with God.

Reading the Psalms with kids teaches about prayer. Much of the book is what we might call a prayer journal to The Divine. This teaches children that praying to God is giving voice to our experiences and sharing them with God. It doesn't have to be perfect or sound right, just honest.

Reading the Psalms with kids encourages theological creativity. The Psalms name and describe (God) in several ways. For example, the authors offer names such as Maker, Shepherd, Strength, Savior, shield, mother, hiding place, exceeding joy, guide, and many more.

Reading the Psalms with kids teaches about trust. The Psalms tell of the authors' deep struggles and joys. In effect, we read of the way in which our spiritual ancestors trusted God in the midst of uncertainty and hardship. So, children have the opportunity to see how they can trust God during all the seasons of their lives.

Reading the Psalms with kids describes God's faithfulness. Some of us go back and read our journals to see how God has been with us. In the same way, the Psalms show us how God was present at all times of the authors' lives. As a result, it's possible for children to begin looking for God's faithfulness in their own lives.

Reading the Psalms with kids relates concretely to life. As children study the Psalms, reading of the authors' experiences, they may be reminded of experiences they've had. Consequently, conversations about their own lives are possible. This gives us an opportunity to speak into their lives.

REMINDER: Our VIP meeting is from 8:30-8:40 in C1.
Your supply bin will be in your classroom.

MAIN TAKEAWAYS: We want our kids to:

- *KNOW that God is our good shepherd. His ways are best.
- *BE developing roots that ground them to Christ.
- *LOOK to God for help, peace, joy and strength every day.

As children arrive - Welcome them by name and invite them to play with you and the other children. Use this time to ask them about their week; their likes and dislikes and their school/family/ friends.

Ways to connect -

***PEN PAL LETTERS** - everything they need is in the Pen Pal Bin*

PLAY a game from the closet

COLOR or draw together

BUILD with legos/blocks, etc.

When most kids have arrived for first service (by 9:05ish), ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.

PREPARE HEARTS

Introduce yourself to the class and have them introduce themselves to you. Take some time to get to know one another.

WELCOME

LEFC Kids Expectations

LEFC Kids
Expectations
poster

Review with them the values of LEFC Kids together. Have them remind you of what they came up with last week on their poster. Write down any additional ideas on the big poster to display in the room.

We are kind

· Use kind words -Welcome others - take turns

We are safe

· Keep hands to yourself - Stay in classroom/with your class - Use toys properly -Keep shoes on -Walk. - Sit on chairs or on the floor

We are good listeners

· Follow directions the 1st time - Raise your hand - One person talks at a time

We make good choices

· Clean up toys/snacks - Participate with your group - Use bathroom at appropriate times

Lead the group to stand in a circle. If your group is large, split into two groups.

STARTER

Yarn Toss

Ball of Yarn

Give one kid the ball of yarn and invite her to say her name and something true and unique about her (or something fun they did this summer).

While holding onto the end of the yarn, she'll toss the rest of the yarn ball to someone else in the circle.

He'll say his name and something true or unique about himself, hold onto the yarn and toss the ball. Continue around the circle until everyone has shared.

SAY: It's so fun learning about you as we start our year together. And look at the cool web we've made with the yarn. You each said something unique about you. All of us are very different, but we're all connected. Everyone is made by God in His image, and His purpose for each of us is to know and love Him. God designed us to be in relationship with Him and one another. Even though we're all different and have lots of things that make us individuals, we are all part of God's family and we are all part of this class. I'm so glad you are here!



ACTIVE MINDS

Taught by the Bible Teacher in Large Group 2:

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

(Quick 1-2 minute review!)

9:20 – 9:35

K – 4th Grade in LG2

Quick Review of the Biblical Timeline and/or Big Picture Question:
(on powerpoint slides)

How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone deserves worship.

BIBLE STORY:

Psalm 1

Bibles, Powerpoint slides

Open your Bible to Psalm 1.

STORYTELLING OPTIONS / TIPS:

Use props: Make two paths to help kids visualize the different ways. Have a shepherds staff and stuffed sheep as you talk about our good shepherd.

Use dramatic effect: Vary your volume and tone of voice to create dramatic effect while telling the story.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,^[a]
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.

Psalm 1

Blessed is the one
who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
or sit in the company of mockers,
but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
and who meditates on his law day and night.
That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers.
Not so the wicked!
They are like chaff
that the wind blows away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

The book of Psalms is a collection of many different songs. Many were written by King David. King David wrote some Psalms when he was happy and others when he was sad. The psalms are full of real emotions as they cry out to God for help, comfort and peace. Psalms can help us put words to our feeling. They can help us to pray when we don't know what to say. They can help us learn from people who have experienced what we are experiencing. The psalms help us see more of who God is and what He is like and reminds us of how He always keeps His promises.

Psalm 23 is possibly the most well-known psalm in the Bible. Psalm 23 is full of God's promises to care of His people (sheep). These verses show us that we can have a personal relationship with the Shepherd - who is Jesus Christ, our Savior. The verses also show us that God always does what is best and that He protects and blesses us with His comfort and presence.

Psalm 1 is another well known psalm that reminds us that God's way is best and that when Jesus is our shepherd, He helps us grow like a strong tree that has deep roots so that we won't be shaken.



REVIEW AND DISCUSS

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Allow time to have the children think and process - however this works best for your class. We want our kids to feel known and heard!

**

In small groups (or as a large group), talk through these questions.

Psalm 23 says, "The Lord is my shepherd." **What does a shepherd do for sheep? How is God like a shepherd for us?**

The psalm says, "I have everything I need." **What are some things you really need every day? Who gives us those things?**

It says, "He makes me lie down in green pastures." **Where do you feel safe and happy, like the sheep in green grass?**

The psalm talks about walking through a dark valley but not being afraid. **What kinds of things sometimes make you scared? How does it help to know God is with you?**

It says, "Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life." **What does it mean for God's love to be with us every day? How can we share God's love with others?**

Psalm 1 talks about a "tree planted by streams of water." **What happens to a tree when it has plenty of water and sunlight? How do you think a person is like that tree?**

The psalm says that people who love God's ways are happy (blessed). **What are some things that make you happy inside? How do God's rules help us live a good life?**

It says we should "meditate on God's law day and night." **What do you think it means to think about God's Word a lot? When is your favorite time to talk to God or hear Bible stories?**

The psalm talks about wicked people being like chaff (the dry pieces that blow away). **What happens to something light if the wind blows hard? Why do you think the psalmist compares bad choices to that?**



Reflection and Prayer

Have children use a blank sheet of paper. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions: Or, just talk about it together.

- **What does this story teach me about God?**

That God is our good shepherd. He loves us and protects us. His ways are best.

- **What does this story teach me about myself?**

That I am like the sheep. I need someone to lead and guide me. That I can choose to follow my shepherd. He will take care of all my needs.



Questions from Kids Video

USB on TV

****No Questions from Kids Video this week!****



ENGAGE HEARTS

Key Passage Activity:

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud 1 Kings 8:60 together.

SAY: Our key passage, like our Bible story, reminds us that there is only one true God. He is our good shepherd. Let's practice memorizing our key passage.

White Board Race

Draw a line down the middle of the dry erase board.

Form kids into two teams and provide each team with a dry erase marker.

Direct kids from each team to race to the board, write a word of the key passage on their side of the line and race back to their team. Continue until all words from the key passage have been written. Announce the team who completes the key passage first as the winner.

- Key Passage Poster

Pray together:

Thank You, Lord, for being the one true God who hears us when we call and responds to our prayers. Help us live in ways that bring You honor and glory. In Jesus' name, amen.



Which Path? Sorting Game

- Sets of scenario slips of paper
- "Two Paths" sheet

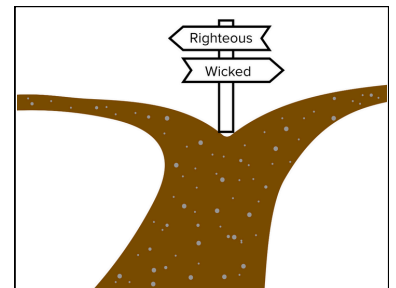
Give each table group a set of scenarios and one copy of the "two paths" sheet.

Have the kids work together with their table group to sort the slips of paper (shown to the right) into two categories - the path of the righteous or the path of the wicked.

Have them divide their slips of paper on one of the two sides of their path - deciding if the action is something a righteous person might do or something an ungodly or wicked person might do.

Afterwards, discuss why they put their scenarios on the different paths. Talk about why our choices matter and how we can choose to follow God every day in every big and little action we take.

Which Path? Sorting Game
Reading your Bible
Ignoring good advice from your parents or teacher
Helping a friend when they get hurt
Speaking unkind words to your brother or sister
Following God's commands found in the Bible
Wasting time when you were told to do something right away
Showing love to others even when they don't show love to you
Disobeying your parents
Praying and thank God
Making fun of people behind their back
Cheating on a test
Telling a little white lie
Giving away your things to someone who needs them more than you do
Sharing your snack with a friend



Cotton Ball Relay

- Cotton Balls
- Straws
- Heart sheet

Divide the class by table groups.

Give each child a cotton ball and a straw.

Have each team stand in a line at one end of their table. Tape the sheet of paper with a heart on it to the opposite end of the table.

On the count of 3, have the first person in line set their cotton ball down on the table in front of them and put their straw in their mouth.

Have them blow their cotton ball to the end of the table and onto the heart. Once they get their cotton ball inside the heart, have them run back and tag the next person in line. Repeat until everyone takes a turn. (Throw straws away immediately after the game!)

Afterwards, talk about how we are like the sheep and God is like the straw, blowing us back to His heart. Even when we wander or stray away from Him, He looks for us and brings us back. We can say thank you to Jesus for always loving us no matter what. His ways and following Him is for our good and His glory.