

News Story Summary

Fourteen-year-old Ella McGovern was recently reunited with the woman that rescued her following the Manchester terror bombing in England. Ella, who suffered shrapnel injuries, had become stranded and disoriented moments following the attack. Jennifer Lee spotted Ella, and despite fear of a second bombing, reached out to help her. Jennifer not only helped Ella, but calmed down Ella's frantic mother, Louise.

Louise said she was extremely distressed as she talked to Ella on the phone following the event, because she could not get to her daughter's side. Talking to Louise on the phone, Jennifer said, "I'm with your daughter, she's fine, she's okay and I've called an ambulance." Louise said it was instant relief.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the phrase "Ella McGovern reunited with rescuer.")

Focus Attention

To supplement the Focus Attention idea and reinforce the discussion about the personal nature of Psalm 23, read the news story summary about Ella McGovern. Ask: *At what point did Jennifer's help to Ella become personal? What difference did it make that Jennifer used a first-person pronoun when she talked to Louise?* Explain that Jennifer Lee was in the right place at the right time. She could have fled to safety, thinking only of herself. But like the Shepherd in Psalm 23, Jennifer comforted Ella and Louise, who were like sheep in distress. Challenge the group to look for ways the psalmist said God comforts us when we are in distress.

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement the Summarize and Challenge ideas, say: David identified the Lord as his Shepherd because of his own experience as a shepherd. He also identified with the dependence of a sheep and his need for a shepherd's care. Remind group members of the news story summary. Direct: *Compare the comfort that Jennifer provided Ella and Louise with the shepherd's care as listed in verses 2-5.* Explain that life consists of many adversities. Psalm 23 helps us to remember we have a Good Shepherd who is able to provide, guide, and protect us during those difficult times. Challenge group members to embrace God as the Shepherd who provides personal care and is always ready to extend comfort to others who are in distress.