

Family Devotional

From July 2, 2017

Read & Create: Gather the art supplies your family prefers to use: markers, crayons, paints, paper, glue, cotton balls, play-doh, clay etc. Read Psalm 23 together, then have each person create the image that comes to mind for them as you read it. Depending on how intricate your creations are, you may choose to read it every few minutes as you create to keep it fresh in everyone's mind.

Share: Have everyone go around to share what they created, and what part of the Psalm led them to this image.

Reflect: David, who wrote this Psalm was a shepherd. He was in charge of taking care of his father's sheep. In this prayer we hear him use a lot of the imagery familiar to a shepherd. In what ways are we like sheep?

How is God like our shepherd?

God uses the imagery of Jesus being a good shepherd in other scriptures as well. This was something familiar to the people he was talking too! Often Jesus would use things people were very familiar with to help them understand deep truths that were new to them. Why do you think connecting something new to something we know helps us understand it better?

Read: *John 10:11-18*

How can we as God's sheep come to know the voice of our shepherd, Jesus?

In Psalm 23 David wrote a heartfelt prayer to God using imagery and connections that were familiar to him. If you were writing a similar prayer to God what imagery or analogies would you use from your own life?

Challenge: Write your own version of Psalm 23. Reread Psalm 23 and look at the points David brings up. What did he declare about the nature of God? What did he say about how God provided for him? What has God brought him through? What is he looking forward to?

Answer these questions for yourself. Think about imagery familiar to your life. Maybe you see God as a teacher, coach, parent, or friend. Write out your own prayer using your answers to these questions as a springboard.

Remember: Work together as a family to memorize and/or meditate on *Psalm 23* this week.

Ideas: Write it down and hang it on the refrigerator. Say it together as a family during meal time each day. Write it on a chalk or white board and erase a couple words each day until you can say it by memory.

Respond: "Dear Jesus, thank you for giving us imaginations and using things that our familiar to us to understand deep truths that might be unfamiliar. Help us to hear your voice, and come to know you more in our everyday livesAmen!"