

EXPERIENCING THE TWENTY-THIRD PSALM



One family taught their **young children** the twenty-third psalm in a delightful manner, acting it out like a play. First they explained what each phrase meant. Then they acted out the phrases, moving from one part of the house to another.

The Lord is my shepherd

The Lord takes good care of us, watching over us day and night.

→ Recite this first line together, perhaps while looking at a picture of the Lord as our shepherd.

I shall not want.

The Lord gives us everything we really need, so that we will not “want” for anything.

He provides us with food, clothing, shelter, and people to love us.

→ Smell, touch, and perhaps taste food the Lord created for us to eat.

He makes me to lie down in green pastures;

Green pastures are where the sheep are fed. They eat tall, green grass.

The Lord gives us food for our minds and our bodies.

→ Lie down near some plants, on a green blanket, or outdoors on the grass.

He leads me beside the still waters.

The Lord gives us truth to live by—like the golden rule and the Ten Commandments.

The truths in the Word feed our minds, teaching us how to do what is good.

→ Move toward a large bowl (or dishpan) filled with water. **OR** walk beside a pond or quiet stream.

He restores my soul;

After the sheep eat and drink, they are full and lay down to sleep. When they wake up they are refreshed.

When we read the Lord’s Word, we feel connected to the Lord.

→ Pretend to sleep and then stand up tall, stretching your hands way above your head.

He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.

The sheep are led by the shepherd, who keeps them safe.

When we follow the truths of the Word, the Lord can lead us along good paths in life.

→ Take the Word and walk around the house carrying it very carefully, everyone following behind.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;

With the Lord’s help, we can face problems (such as fears of the dark and illness or disappointment).

Everything will work out for the best if we follow the Lord.

→ Have the “sheep” pass through a dark hallway with some obstacles set in the way.

For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

The Word is like a shepherd’s rod and staff, guiding and protecting us.

→ Find a walking stick then use it while going for a walk. See how it helps support you, especially when you are going uphill or over rocky terrain?

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

The Lord feeds us in good times and hard times.

His love is like oil anointing our heads. He loves us forever and His love never ends.

→ Put a drop of olive oil on the child’s forehead.

→ Fill a cup with water (or dry rice) and keep pouring so that it overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

We will live with the Lord in heaven if we let Him be our Shepherd.

→ Have everyone in the family hold hands. After completing the psalm, raise hands together and say, “Amen.”