

Lesson

9

David Trusts God

BIBLE BASIS

David expresses trust in God's care (Psalm 23).

BIBLE TRUTH

Trusting God shows we love Him.

MEMORY VERSE

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart."
Matthew 22:37

LESSON AIM

That your students will know that they can trust God to take care of them.

1

LIFE NEED (5 MINUTES)

- Children experiment with trusting and talk about trusting others

2

BIBLE LEARNING (10–15 MINUTES)

- Tell about David's song of trust
- Review with questions and an activity

Materials: Bible, "David Trusts God" Teaching Aid 12, *Storytime* for Lesson 9, crayons or pencils

3

BIBLE APPLICATION (10 MINUTES)

- Teach the memory verse with a poem
- Color a picture of David the shepherd boy



Materials: *Early Elementary Make-It/Take-It* for Lesson 9 and add-on figure of sheep, markers or crayons, cotton balls

4

LIFE RESPONSE (10 MINUTES)

- Read a story of how a child learns to trust
- Name times when we need to trust God

Materials: *Storytime* paper for Lesson 9

Understanding Your Students

In earlier lessons, the children learned that God loves them and cares for them. Now they are to respond to God's love by trusting Him. Children do trust God in a broad, general sense. But their confidence is not linked to specific or personal experiences. This lesson takes them a step further and helps them understand what specifically they can trust God for.



This symbol means extra preparation or supplies are needed.

Understanding the Bible

While David was still a shepherd boy, Samuel called him from the fields to anoint him as God's selection for the next king (1 Sam. 16:13).

David first came to Saul's court as a harpist to soothe the king who was tormented by "an evil spirit from the LORD" (1 Sam. 16:14). When David played his harp, the evil spirit departed, so the king was pleased with David. David also found favor with the people by defeating Goliath years later. David took the throne of Israel when Saul took his own life during a battle.

David composed many beautiful psalms. Seventy-three of those in the Book of Psalms are credited to him, the most famous of which is Psalm 23.

In this psalm, David portrays God as a shepherd, guide, and protector during all facets of daily life. The word "shepherd" was commonly used to refer to kings in the ancient Near East and also in Israel. It was a natural way to describe God's relationship with them (Isa. 40:11; John 10:11).

David knew God would provide for all the people's needs. The "green pastures" (Ps. 23:2) refer to all the needs God meets so we can live comfortably. The "quiet waters" refer to the rest that God provides when we are tired. By leading us "along the right paths," God helps us follow His will for our lives (vs. 3).

The scene changes near the end of the psalm to show God as a bountiful host (vss. 5 and 6). David knew that he was under the protection of the Lord.

David concluded this psalm with the assurance that those who follow the Shepherd will always be with Him.

Sheep tend to back off from agitated streams or fast-rushing waters, so the psalmist asks to be led by (more literally in the Orthodox Jewish Bible) "tranquil waters" (vs. 2 OJB).

We must not forget that, as a fugitive from King Saul, David and his men roamed the badlands. With 3,000 men, Saul chased "David and his men near the Crag of the Wild Goats" (1 Sam. 24:2). Once they hid themselves in "sheep pens" (24:3). These would have been cave entrances that had probably once been enclosed (by stones or thistles) for protecting sheep.

One can well imagine that during such manhunts or in David's own shepherdings, he might have to pass through or lead a flock through some shadowy ravines ("through the valley of the shadow of death," Ps. 23:4 KJV) where hyenas or other wild animals might be lurking.

Any shepherd's job was to pasture the sheep. Our word pastor has a similar meaning, for a pastor's job is to teach people (see Mark 6:34).

Classroom Tips

Here are some specific things your students can trust God for. Talk about these during class.

- Children can trust God to care for them. When they are in fearful situations, they can have confidence that God is with them and they need not be afraid. Discuss times or situations when they can trust God for protection.
- Children can trust God to give them all they need. God gives them the basics of their life: food, water, shelter, families. Point out how they can be confident of God's provision.
- Children can trust God for rest. They can be confident that God will keep them safe while they sleep. Even in the dark at night or when they wake up with bad dreams, they can trust God to care for them.

Worship Activities

- Call your students to the worship area with the song or signal.
- Collect offerings from students and pray for the offering.
- Pray with your students. **Dear God, You are always there when we need You. We can trust You to take good care of us. We love You. In Jesus' name. Amen.**



Before Class

Greet each child with a personal greeting. **Today we will learn that we can trust God to care for us.** Ask your students to mark their attendance on the Summer Attendance Chart with a small sticker, a happy face, or by coloring in a square. Have children give their offerings and then lead them to the first activity of the day.

Getting Started

The following activities will prepare the children for the story of David trusting in God's care.

- **Blocks and Clay:** Your students can work in two groups to make clay sheep and block fences. Encourage them to count the sheep just as a shepherd would. They can "lead" the sheep out of the pen to water and grass. **God wants us to trust Him just as sheep trust their shepherd.**
- **Dolls:** Use various items to show care for the dolls. Pretend to feed the dolls, dress them, and put them down for a nap. **You trust your parents to care for you. You can trust God to care for you.**
- **Word Writing:** Print "SHEPHERD" in large well-spaced letters on the board. Put out paper, pencils, and crayons or markers. Tell the children to copy SHEPHERD in large letters onto a paper. Then color them. **We will learn about a shepherd today.**



Life Need 5 minutes

Objective: That your students will experiment with trusting and talk about trusting others.

Today's Bible lesson impresses upon the children that we can trust God to care for us. The opening activity will get the children involved in your lesson and give them a chance to experience trusting you.

We are going to play a little game. Form a line behind me. I want you to put one of your hands on the shoulder of the person in front of you. Now close your eyes, and I want you to follow me. Keep your eyes closed or covered and trust me to safely lead you. If you have a large class, you might want the children to hold hands instead. Or have an adult volunteer be in the middle of the line or lead a second line of children.

Slowly lead the children around your room. Go around tables and chairs. You might lead them out of your room, and maybe outside the building; be sure your route is free from obstacles such as stairs. **Keep following and keep your eyes closed or covered. You can trust me to safely lead you.** Lead the children to the place you would like to sit and talk with them. **You did great! Open your eyes and sit down.** Then ask these questions.

Was it easy or hard to trust me to lead you safely? (Encourage everyone to respond. Accept their thoughts on the experience.)

What did you do when you didn't trust me to take care of you? (Let the children talk. They might say they opened their eyes, felt afraid, or tried to feel where they were going with their feet.)

Let's talk about what it was like to trust someone to lead you with your eyes closed. Who do you trust to take care of you? (Parents, other family members, friends, teachers, and so on.)

How do they take care of you? (They may include things people buy such as food, clothes, home, toys, books, and so on. They might talk about things others do such as work at a job, cook meals, clean house, wash clothes, teach Sunday school, and so on.)

Why do you trust others to care for you? (This question is more challenging. The children may need some extra time to think. They might talk about trusting people because they know them or like them. They might suggest that they trust people who treat them well. Some might say they aren't sure, they just do it.)

Our Bible story is about David when he was young. Let's listen to learn who David trusted to care for him.

2 Bible Learning 10–15 minutes

Objective: That your students will learn about Psalm 23, the poem David wrote about how God cares for us.

Before class, punch out the figures from “David Trusts God” Teaching Aid 12. Follow the directions on the back. Have your Bible open to Psalm 23.

BIBLE STORY

Place pasture scene, Figure 1, on one side; stand David, Figure 2, in front of you.) **When David was young, he was a shepherd.**

(Place Figures 3 and 4 around David.) **He took care of his father’s sheep. David loved each one of the sheep. They trusted David to take good care of them.**



“David Trusts God”
Teaching Aid 12

David thought about how the sheep trusted the ways he cared for them. He gave them what they needed. He led them to fresh water and green grass. (Walk the sheep, Figures 3 and 4, behind David to the stream in Figure 1.) **He took them to safe places to rest. The sheep were never afraid, because they trusted David to care for them.**

David often thought about God while watching the sheep. Once David said to himself, “I’m like a sheep. And God is like my shepherd who cares for me. I trust God for all I need. I trust Him to lead me to places to rest. I’m not afraid, because I know God is with me. I know He will always love me.”

David wrote a poem about how God cared for him. It’s written down for us in Psalm 23. We can learn a shorter and easier version of Psalm 23.

In the Bible, Psalm 23 begins, “The Lord is my shepherd.” This means God is like a shepherd to us because we can trust Him to take care of us just like real sheep trust their shepherd.

We can begin our Psalm 23 with, “The Lord is my shepherd.” (Have the children say, “The Lord is

my shepherd,” after you.)

Psalm 23 in the Bible says, “I lack nothing.” This means God gives me everything I need to live. We can say in our Psalm 23, “He gives me all I need.” (Have the children repeat it.)

The Bible says, “He makes me lie down in green pastures.” A shepherd takes his sheep to green grass where the sheep can rest. They would be safe there. Nothing could sneak up on them because their shepherd can see clearly. God knows we need rest. We can trust Him to watch over us even when we are asleep. We can say, “He gives me rest.” (Have children repeat.)

Psalm 23 says, “I will fear no evil, for you are with me.” This means that we don’t need to be afraid. God is always with us. He is bigger and stronger than anything or anyone. We can say, “I will not be afraid.” (Have children repeat.)

The last verse, “Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,” is David’s way of saying that he knew God loved him. We can say, “He loves me.” (Have children repeat.)

Here is our shorter version of Psalm 23: The Lord is my shepherd; He gives me all I need; He gives me rest; I will not be afraid; He loves me.

David trusted God to care for him. We can trust God to care for us.

BIBLE STORY REVIEW

- **Who did David say God is like?** (A shepherd.)
- **What did David trust God to do?** (He trusted God to provide for all he needed, to lead him to places for rest, to care for him.)

Distribute *Storytime* for Lesson 9 and have children do the connect-the-dots activity on page 4



Storytime,
Lesson 9, page 4

3 Bible Application 10 minutes

Objective: That your students will learn that they can show love to God by trusting Him to care for them.

MEMORY VERSE

Help students find the memory verse on page 4 of *Storytime*. Read the verse together.

David's poem showed how much he loved the Lord. We've been learning a poem about loving the Lord that has our memory verse in it. Let's say it.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart."

(Hug self.)

Hear His Word and hurry to obey.

(Touch ear; run in place.)

Ask the Lord to show you what is right.

(Fold hands.)

When He shows you, do not run away!

(Form open Bible with hands; run in place.)

Let's say our memory verse again. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart" Matthew 22:37.

■ **How can we show love to God?** (By trusting Him to care for us.)

Collect the *Storytime* papers and put them away until the end of class.

HANDCRAFT

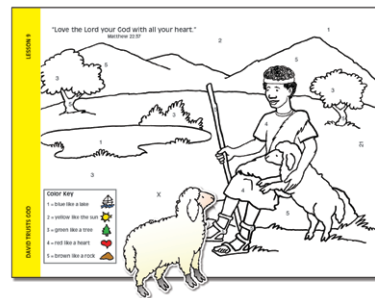
In advance, remove Lesson 9 from each student's Make-It/Take-It and the add-on figure of the sheep (from the middle of the book). Each student will also need markers or crayons.

Explain what a color-by-number picture is. Before your students begin coloring, talk about the color key at the bottom of the page. Let your students use crayons to color the picture.

After the pictures have been colored, help children glue or tape the add-on figure of the sheep to the X on the page. You may want to let your students glue bits of cotton onto the sheep in the picture.

■ **Who wrote a song about God being just like a shepherd?** (David.)

God cares for us the way David cared for his sheep. Have children talk about how God cares for them. **We show love to God by trusting Him to care for us.**



Make-It/Take-It, Lesson 9



4 Life Response 10 minutes

Objective: That your students will show love for God by expressing their trust in Him.

Read aloud to your students “Where is Grandma Bell?” from pages 2 and 3 of *Storytime* for Lesson 9. Depending on your class, your students may want to read with you. They can read the words represented by the art spots on the rebus or you may choose a first-grader to read the story. Or you may read the story below.

PRESENT-DAY STORY

Jason looked out the window. He did not see Grandma Bell. She was coming for the weekend. Maybe he could see her car if he went outside.

He looked down the street. He still did not see Grandma Bell. Where was she? Jason sat on the steps to wait.

The phone rang. It was Grandma Bell. “She had car trouble,” Jovan told Jason. “She is not far away. She will walk.”

Jason stayed outside. He was worried. What if Grandma Bell could not walk that far? Jason waited. Wait, there was Grandma Bell!

“What is the matter, Jason?” Grandma Bell asked.

“I was worried, Grandma Bell. I did not think you could walk so far,” Jason said softly.

Grandma Bell smiled, “God always takes care of me, Jason. That is why I trust Him.”

“I guess I forgot,” Jason said. “I forgot to trust God to take care of you, just like He takes care of me!”

the doctor, or starting a new grade in school. Let your students name other times.

■ **Can you trust God for these things?** (Allow students to respond. Saying yes might seem like the right answer for children to say. Be sensitive to children who may show that they haven’t grasped fully what it means to trust or who are hesitant to say yes they trust God.)

Let’s ask God to help us trust Him for everything. Pray with the children.

Dear Lord, we have talked about times when we are afraid and need Your help. These are some of those times. (Have students say what they have just mentioned.) We know that we can trust You to take care of us each day. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Make sure that each student has his Make-It/Take-It handcraft pictures of David and *Storytime* for Lesson 9.

Give each student an individual goodbye. **Remember to trust God this week. Trusting God shows we love Him.**



Storytime, Lesson 9, pages 2-3



Storytime, Lesson 9, page 1

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Let’s name some times when we need to remember to trust God. I’ll get us started.

You could name times when your students might be afraid or worried such as going to the dentist or