

VOCATIONS SUNDAY 2018

All age worship ideas – Psalm 23

Hello God

Hello God, Hello Jesus, Hello Holy Spirit. Come and be with us. Yes, you are the Lord of stars and great big planets, but yes, yes, yes you are with us. And you promise never to leave us, even when we feel alone and lost you are always with us, and when you are near everything is different. Help us to worship you in Spirit and truth Amen.

Time to talk. Lost and found

In small discussion groups or if your congregation is smaller you can discuss all together. Ask your congregation to recall a time they were lost or had lost somebody else, Perhaps in a supermarket or train station or similar place. How did it feel to be lost?

Then how did it feel to be found and back to the safety of your family or loved ones?

God promises never to leave us. Even when things in life are really bad, God promises to find us, call us and draw us home safe. When God finds and rescues us he is like a parent who has found a lost child. His joy overflows into celebration.

Reflection

What is God like?

Psalm 23 tells us that God is like a shepherd that loves, cares and protects his sheep. He makes sure that they have good green grass to eat and fresh clean water to drink. He watches over them and brings them into the sheep pen at night to keep them safe. He leads them out every day to fields where they can safely graze on the juicy grass.

God is like our shepherd he watches over us, He knows us, and that means he knows what is best for us. He knows exactly what we need before we ask for it, and he knows that sometimes the things we think we want won't always be good for us.

Pause here and show Psalm 23 Power Point. Read it aloud.

God loves you just as a shepherd loves his sheep. God wants to take care of you just as a shepherd cares for and protects his sheep.

Prayer activity

You are creating a poster of a stream running through green hilly pastures, with the printed Bible verse. The poster could be displayed and used as a reminder of God's care.

You will need:

Large A2 size light blue card.

Pre-cut green card hills.

Pre-cut dark blue stream

Pre-cut card flowers in various colour and size

Pre-printed 'The Lord is my Shepherd, I lack nothing'

Prit-stick

Place the pieces that will make up the poster around your worship space. Explain that as you pray there will be spaces for people to come up and stick on a part of the picture.

Prayer Adoration and confession and absolution

God, you are the maker of the whole world. You made the sky, the land, the mountains, valleys and hills.

Pause for the hills to be glued to the blue background

Life giving God, you created the oceans, seas, rivers and the babbling streams. You always provide, care and refresh us.

Pause to add the stream

You created trees and plants and flowers, good to eat, good to smell, good to look at with all there bright and dazzling colours.

Pause to add the flowers

Creator God you provide us with a wonderful world of abundance and plenty. You know what we need, and you delight in seeing us thrive and grow.

We are sorry for the times when we have not wanted you. When we have ignored you, our shepherd.

We are sorry for the times we have gone our own way and done our own thing, the times we have refused to be led, guided and kept safe by you.

We are sorry for the times we have ignored your shepherds call, and become so lost we couldn't find our way back to you.

Thank you that your goodness and love have followed us, and rescued us and carried us safely home.

You are our Shepherd, we lack nothing

Pause to add the memory verse

Help us to always remember your loving care. Amen.

Song suggestions

Father God I wonder Mission Praise 128.

Our God, is a great big God <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=StSJ4D05nuU>

The Lord's my shepherd (Stuart Townsend version).

Sing to the tune of Baa Baa Black Sheep

Shepherd lead me day by day

Guide me in my work and play.

Keep me safely on your path

Guard me with your rod and staff

Shepherd lead me day by day

Guide me in my work and play.

Challenge to worship leader - add your own verse