#### Lesson 3:

#### David the Shepherd; 23 Psalm

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

1 Samuel 16:1-14; 17:34-35; Psalm 23

MEMORY WORK:

Psalm 23:1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

God loves me and will take care of me, like a shepherd takes care of his sheep.

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| **LESSON STARTS HERE** |

INTRODUCTION:

King Saul made some bad choices and disobeyed God over and over again. God decided that the Israelites needed another king—a king who would help them do what He said. God chose a young man who was a shepherd to take Saul’s place. He was a young man who loved God with all his heart.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. King Saul chose to disobey God so many times that God regretted that He had made Saul king of Israel (1 Samuel 15:26,28,35). God sent His prophet (and the last judge) Samuel to the tiny town of **Bethlehem** to find the man He had chosen to take Saul’s place as king.

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** Bethlehem means “house of bread.” Originally called “Ephrath” or “Ephrathah,” it is a very ancient town, dating back at least to the time of Jacob; Rachel was buried there. It is about five miles south of Jerusalem.

1. Samuel went to the house of a man named Jesse who had eight sons. He invited Jesse to join him in offering a sacrifice to God. When Samuel saw Jesse’s oldest son, Eliab, he was very impressed with him because of his outward appearance; he thought surely this man was the one God had chosen. But God told Samuel that He was not interested in how a person looks on the outside; God cares about who people are on the inside (read 1 Samuel 16:7). Looking at seven of Jesse’s sons, one at a time, God told Samuel that none of them were the one He had chosen to be the next king of Israel.

**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the article “[**Jesse’s Missing**](http://www.apologeticspress.org/AllegedDiscrepancies.aspx?article=799)[**Son**](http://www.apologeticspress.org/AllegedDiscrepancies.aspx?article=799)” on the Apologetics Press Web site for a study on an alleged discrepancy regarding how many sons Jesse had.

1. Samuel asked Jesse if he had any more sons. “There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep,” Jesse replied. Samuel told Jesse to send for David. When he finally came to the house from the pasture, Samuel could see that David “was ruddy, with bright (beautiful) eyes and good-looking.” God told Samuel this was the man God wanted to be king. David was nice-looking and hardworking, but, more importantly, he was a good young man on the inside. In front of all his brothers and his father, Samuel anointed David to be the next king of Israel. He would not become king right away, and his anointing would be a secret only his family would know until God decided the time was right for him to take over as leader of Israel. From that time on, God was with David in a special way, guiding him and giving him strength.

**NOTE:** Jesse’s sons as listed in 1 Samuel 16:6-11, 17:12-14, and 1 Chronicles 2:13-15: Eliab, Abinadab, Shammah (Shimea), Nethanel, Raddai, Ozem, and David. The other son apparently died before he grew old enough to have a family to be included in the genealogies of 1 Chronicles.

1. Later, after Saul died during a battle with the Philistines near Mount Gilboa, the time was right, and David became king of the tribes of Judah (the southern part of the entire country of Israel; the part of land given to Judah and Benjamin when Joshua divided Canaan among the tribes). Two years later, David became king of all the land of Israel—all 12 of the tribes.
2. David was a shepherd who had spent most of his time in the pastures alone with his father’s sheep. He wrote and sang songs (psalms) to God and learned to play musical instruments. He used that time of isolation to grow closer and closer to God. David became so good at playing the harp that he was asked by King Saul’s servants to come play for King Saul at times when a “distressing spirit” came on him after God had rejected him for his disobedience (1 Samuel 16:14-23). David’s music would sooth Saul until he became refreshed and the “distressing spirit” left him.
3. One of the most familiar and most beautiful psalms (songs) that David wrote was Psalm 23. In that song he describes God as a great shepherd who takes care of all of us; we are His sheep. David knew all the hard work he had to do to care for animals (discuss what that would have entailed); he did that out of love and concern for the animals, and love and respect for his father Jesse. God cares for us, because of His great love and concern for us. [Go into as much detail about the work of a shepherd as you think your students can understand.]

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL VISUALS (note disclaimers):

##### Betty Lukens’ felt pieces, Lesson 37 in Betty Lukens Manual

* ABeka Flash-a-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, not the lesson book;)
* Free Bible Images – Saved on flash drive. Can be presented on classroom tv. Script included in lesson file. File will be labeled “03A” and “03B” in the Visuals Folder. 03 A tells of David being anointed king while he was still a shepherd. 03 B is the 23rd Psalm
* Props to tell the 23rd Psalm at the table:
  + Shepherd Picture a Plastic Shepherd figure such as from a nativity set
  + Plastic sheep toy such as from Fisher Price Little People Farm set
  + Piece of Green Felt
  + Long strip of blue felt, fabric, tablecloth, etc.
  + “Right Way” Sign and “I will fear no evil” sign
  + Rod and Staff made from Pipe cleaners
  + Cup and blue material

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS:

There are several songs in the song book based on Psalm 23.

There are also several other songs based on other Psalms that could be introduced. Discuss how David played the harp and also wrote many of the Psalms.

### SUNDAY

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* Tell Psalm 23 at the table with props (refer to recommended visuals for prop list)

What to do:

Spred out the items in front of you in the order they will be used. As you repeat the 23rd Psalm, place each object on the table in front of you.

1. “The Lord is my shepherd” = Place the shepherd on the table
2. “He makes me lie down in green pasture”= place the green felt in front of you and the sheep on top of the felt.
3. “He leads me beside the still waters”= place the piece of blue felt on the green felt and move the sheep along the “still waters”
4. “He leads me in the paths of righteousness” = place the sign in front and move the sheep in the direction it is pointing.
5. “He anoints my head with oil” – Touch the sheep’s head with your finger.
6. “My cup runs over” = Hold a cup full of water. You can put some blue material in it and spilling over it to look like water spilling

After you have gone over the whole Psalm, have your children take turns trying to do it.

* Play “Follow the Leader” to emphasize how sheep follow their shepherd. Tell the

children that a good shepherd protects his sheep from harm, makes sure they have what they need, etc. The shepherd knows each sheep’s name, and the sheep follow him without question. Emphasize that if we follow God (do what His Word says), God will take care of us, too.

* Handprint sheep: With a white crayon, trace each child’s handprint on black construction

paper. Cut out the handprints and glue cotton balls everywhere except the thumb and the tips of the fingers. For a less messy version, let the students color the wool white with a white crayon. Turn the hands upside down. On the thumb, draw an eye with a white crayon.



* Sheep Plate Diorama – Create a scene on a paper plate depicted the 23 Psalm. It should include, grass, water, and a sheep. Alternately, if you have a large box, one classroom size diorama or wall mural could be made. Each student can add their handprint sheep and leave in the classroom for the quarter.



### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson. briefly (See [Review Questions](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/4-24-32RQ.pdf) for example questions.)
2. Emphasize the importance of the psalms (special songs of praise and prayer, and requests for help and forgiveness). Psalms is the longest book in the Bible. About ½ of the psalms were written by David. Psalms is one of the five books of poetry in the Old Testament (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon).

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* Act out the story – The kindergarten class has Bible shepherd costumes and staffs that may be borrowed if you would like to do this activity.
* Kings of Israel Review Game – Even though David was not king yet, he had been anointed by Samuel and would eventually be king. Go ahead and introduce these new cards about David. Then review the Saul Cards.
  + Was a shepherd
  + Wrote many psalms
  + Was the 2nd king of Israel

Review Questions

1. Who was the king of Israel in the story?
   1. Saul
2. Why did God want to find a new king?
   1. Because Saul had disobeyed Him many times
3. Who did God send to look for a new king?
   1. Samuel
4. What was the name of the man Samuel went to see?
   1. Jesse
5. How many sons did Jesse have?
   1. Eight
6. Who was the son anointed by Samuel to be king?
   1. David
7. What did David look like?
   1. Ruddy, bright-eyed, good-looking
8. What was David’s job?
   1. He was a shepherd.
9. What did David do while he was taking care of his father’s sheep?
   1. He wrote psalms and grew closer to God.
10. Over how many tribes did David end up being king?
    1. All 12

Additional Notes / Activities Performed & Curriculum Feed Back

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