

Tonight's

passage – Psalm 23.¹⁻⁶

theme – **The Shepherd**



Jesus said, "I am the good Shepherd"

Sheep need a shepherd. And we all need Jesus!

There's a letter hidden on each of the first 4 pages of the worksheet: see if you can find them and when you do, you'll see they spell out for you where the shepherd is taking the sheep!

Where is the shepherd taking the sheep? Fill in the answer on p.4

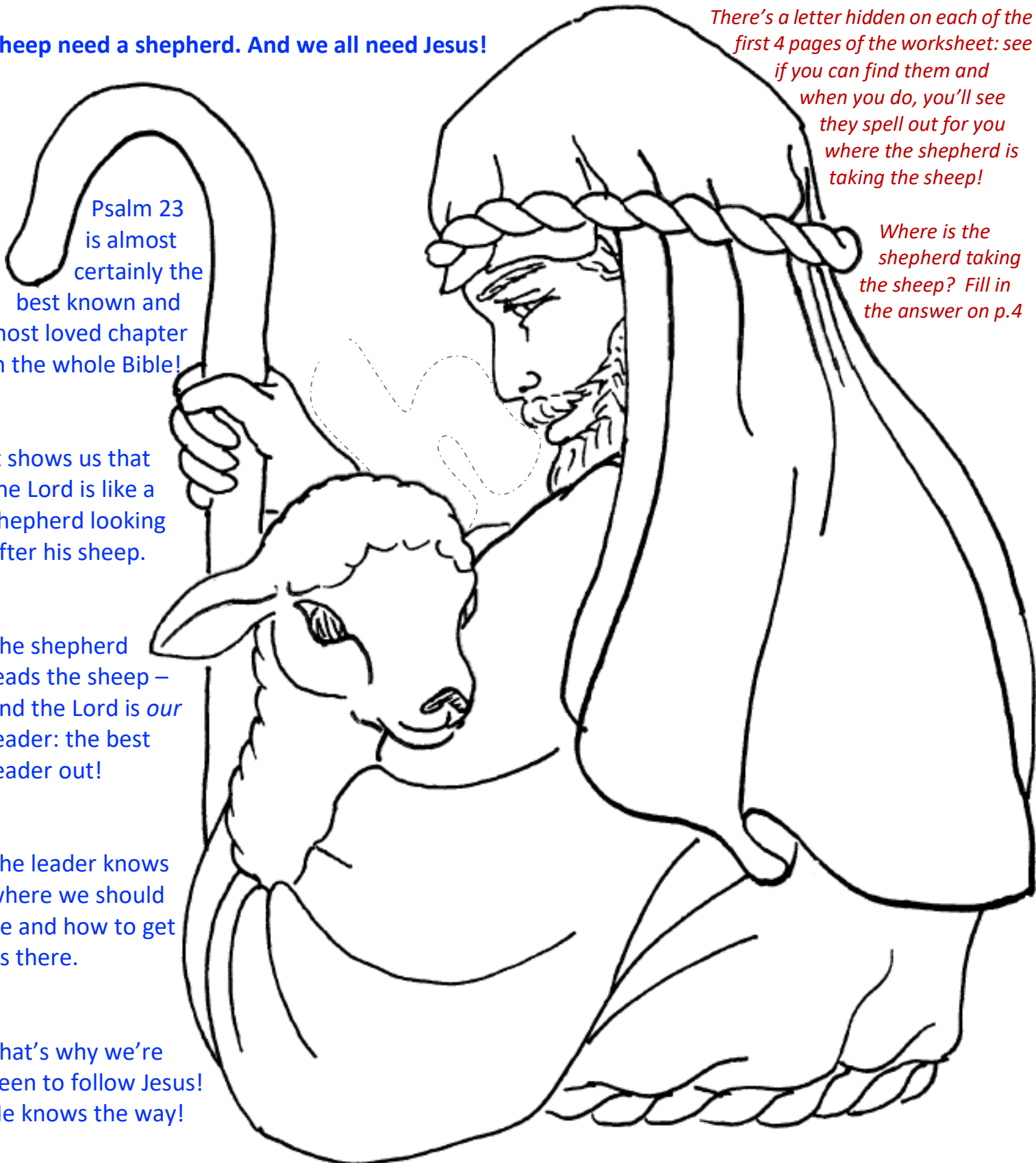
Psalm 23 is almost certainly the best known and most loved chapter in the whole Bible!

It shows us that the Lord is like a shepherd looking after his sheep.

The shepherd leads the sheep – and the Lord is *our* leader: the best leader out!

The leader knows where we should be and how to get us there.

That's why we're keen to follow Jesus! He knows the way!



lacking nothing



Read

Psalm 23 verses 1-3

¹The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

²He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, ³He refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths for His name's sake.

food, drink & rest

When you go on a long journey you'll need to find places where you can get food and drink – and if it's a really long journey, you'll need a place to stay the night and get some sleep.

Circle the bits in the passage which speak about the shepherd making sure the sheep get

- food
- drink
- rest

*There are 8 bits of food and drink in the picture.
Can you find them all?*



follow Jesus

When you start to follow Jesus that sets you on a long path of 'discipleship'. Jesus knows you need 'food' (we 'feed' on the 'food' of the Bible), 'water' (He pours out His Spirit on us), and 'rest' (we share together weekly in the worship of His people).



kept safe



Sheep are easily frightened: and we can be easily scared as well – by all sorts of things.

What sort of things frighten you and make you a bit worried?

Read

Psalm 23 verse 4-5

⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

At the very centre of the big 'rose' window of the church the three words 'God with us' remind you as you leave the building that whatever you have to face God will be with you and He will keep you safe



Try copying the picture in the window into the 'blank' circle here



The shepherd knows that from time to time there will be problems and dangers on the journey.

The shepherd keeps the sheep safe from everything which would harm them.

And Jesus keeps us safe as we follow Him!

Read

Psalm 23^{verse 6}

⁶ Surely Your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

“the house of the Lord”

The people of the Old Testament called the temple ‘the house of the Lord’ because that was where people had a real sense of the Lord being present.

The temple was where sacrifices were offered to the Lord... and it was **sheep** which were brought to the temple and sacrificed there.



Our lives, too, are to be offered up to the Lord in ‘a sacrifice of praise’.

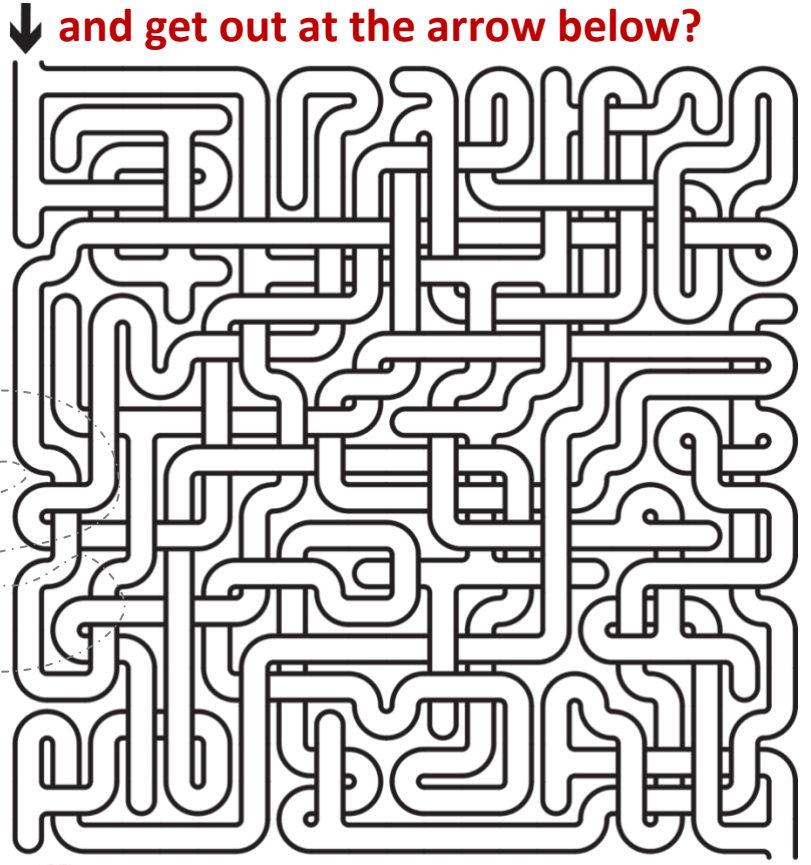
That’s what Jesus is doing with His ‘flock’ of followers as He leads us along the path of discipleship.

He’s making sure that we’re ‘sheep without blemish’ as our lives are offered to God in sacrifice & service.

We get to be with God for ever!

reach your destination

Can you find your way through the maze and get out at the arrow below?



Did you find all 4 letters? Put them in the boxes here and you’ll see where Jesus is leading us!

Four empty rounded rectangular boxes for writing letters.



Think about what you've been learning in this worksheet.

Speak to God about what you've learned: if you want, use this prayer to help you

Lord Jesus, I'm glad that You are **my** shepherd!

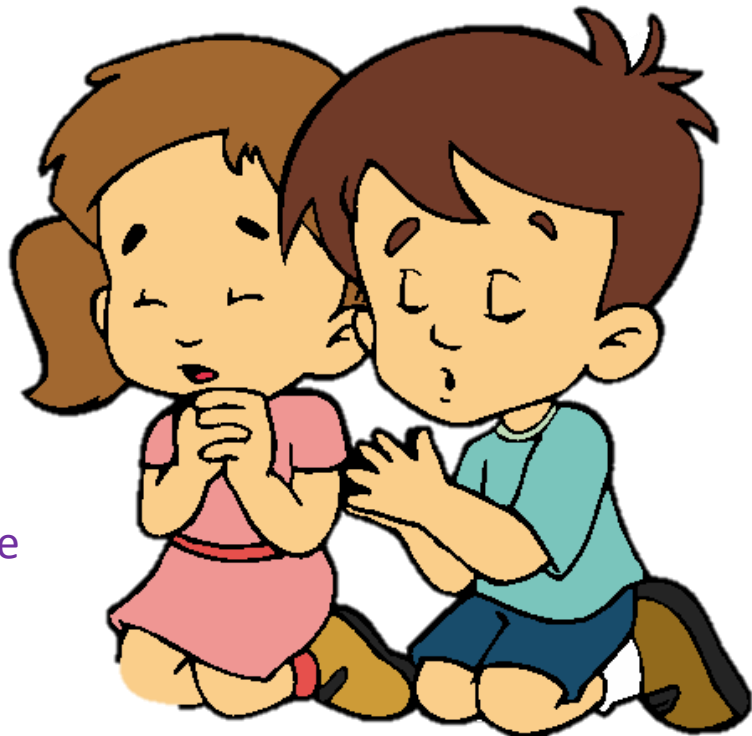
It's amazing that You know each one of Your sheep: I'm glad that You know everything about me even before I tell You!

Thank You that when I go astray You come looking for me.
You always put me on the right path again.

Thank You, too, for all the ways in which You look after me.

You help me grow strong.
You teach me Your ways.
You keep me very safe.

And You're taking me back to
Your Father's house so that I can
live there with all the rest of Your people
for ever!



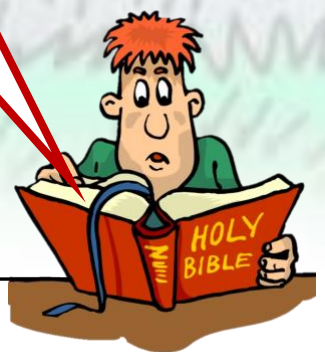
Jesus, You're not just the good Shepherd – You're the best!

Today's verse for you to try and remember!



"And I will dwell in the
house of the Lord for ever"

Psalm 23.⁶



A WORDSEARCH ..

Here's a wordsearch taken from Psalm 23

S H A L L N O T W A N T H N Z I O N U G O T V O
Y L L E W D L L A H S E E P H O U S E Q T A Z Q
I O R F O L L O W M E E G E N E M Y K Q W B T H
T O N L L A H S R R R V R E V E R O F A L L B U
G K E C E E Z R I G H T E O U S N E S S A E X F
X C V N H T E D A E L E C O C H Y W H P N I F O
S E I M E N E F O E C N E S E R P H W H P F Q O
M M D G T H R O U G H T H E V A L L E Y L N V Z
N V Q F B W U E T Y W L R E S T O F M Y L I F E
P K E C E I R J L D R O L E H T F O E S U O H O
D F D C T T K O E V F A B D R E H P E P S H F R
B I W T T H Z Z D Q K B N U Y C P A T H S N H V
S A W S K O I R D A Z S R O R M Q E G B M A F Z
L H Y X E I F N T A N C E C I H C P U C H M A B
S L A D M L S H Q N V D M R L N O J W L T E R E
P Z A D S J O A Y C W I S U O H T K R O A S M F
E O J X O L U M K P F O D T O T O S E R E A E O
U J H K Z W L N S E W G D I A C S K V D D K O R
D O T A P C U A D E Y A Y E S F Y E O D K E O E
K B Y Z A L L E F C Z Z N N I K F P R H I V D Z
N U D L H M V I R Z B L I T L L B R U N N E T H
S E T S C Q L E M P J Y N A R P A S T U R E S S
D Z P Q H Y M T Q S F B W S Y A D E H T L L A N
H C W E M C Z O V W S S E N D O O G K O C U M C

HOUSE OF THE LORD
PRESENCE OF ENEMIES
WALK
PSALM
FOLLOW ME
LORD
PATHS
SETS
TABLE

MY LIFE
ROD AND STAFF
RESTORES
FOREVER
GOODNESS
MERCY
REST OF MY LIFE
SHALL NOT
WANT

ALL THE DAYS
THROUGH THE VALLEY
LIE DOWN
BEFORE
GREEN
NAME SAKE
RIGHTEOUSNESS
SHALL DWELL

WITH OIL
DEATH
SHALL NOT WANT
CUP
HOUSE
OVER
RUNNETH
SOUL

ANOINTS
SHADOW
DAVID
ENEMY
LEADETH
PASTURES
SAKE
SPEPHERD

COLOUR in the picture

