

Everything We Need

By Paige Evers

By exploring Psalm 23, children learn that God cares for them like a shepherd and gives them everything they need. A stack of cards with simple words and pictures helps connect the promises in the Psalm with the child's daily life. Together, family members plan ways they can be generous to others just as God, their shepherd, has been generous to them.

For

Young Family

Season

Fall

Needed

Bible or children's Bible (or see Psalm 23 below),
"Everything in My World" Cards, Crayons or Markers

Prepare in Advance

Print and cut out the "Everything in My World" Cards.



Activity Plan

1. Say this prayer aloud to begin.

Dear God, thank you for guiding us as a shepherd. As we read your holy Word, help us to hear how much you love us. Thank you for giving us everything we need. Amen.

2. Introduce Psalm 23. Tell your child that you'll be hearing how God is our shepherd. God takes care of us. Listen for all of the ways our shepherd takes care of us.
3. Read aloud Psalm 23.
4. Show your child the stack of cards. Tell him that each card shows one way that God takes care of him. Flip over one card at a time and have your child describe what he sees on the card. For each card, ask questions to help your child connect the picture with specific gifts from God in his life. For example, ask:
 - What is your favorite (*food, toy, stuffed animal*), out of all the (*food, toys, stuffed animals*) God has given you?
 - How has your doctor helped you? How is Dr. _____ a gift from God? (*Possible answers: your doctor gives you regular check ups to make sure your body is growing as it should. Your doctor finds out what's wrong when you are sick and helps you get better.*)
 - What is your favorite kind of weather? How do different kinds of weather help us? (*Possible answers: God gives sunshine to grow plants and food. Rain helps flowers grow.*)
5. Show your child the two blank "Talent" cards. Ask what skills or talents God has given her. Talk about the skills and talents you have as a family that come from God. Draw a picture to show these.
6. If there is something else that is important to your child that isn't shown on the cards, use the blank card that says, "Something I want to thank God for," to write or draw that item.

7. Connect the cards with the Psalm. Look at the cards again and talk about the following:
 - The Psalm starts out with “The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want.” That means that God will give you everything you need. You won’t be missing anything. What is one thing God has given you that you want to thank God for today? *(If the answer has a card to go with it, find that card and set it aside.)*
 - The Psalm says that the Lord leads you beside still waters and restores your soul. That means that God helps you feel peaceful. What are some ways that God helps you rest and feel refreshed? *(Possible answers and cards: the love of family and friends, a home to rest in, stuffed animals to snuggle.)*
 - The Psalm talks about walking through a dark place and how God is always with us. What are some scary things? How does God protect you from scary things? *(Possible answers and cards: family and friends, the support of a church family, a doctor to help.)*
 - The Psalm ends with “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.” That means that God loves you forever and ever, no matter what!
8. Now put all the cards back in one pile. Choose 2-3 cards from the stack and talk about how you can share God’s great love. How can you give to others? For example:
 - Show your child the money card and talk about bringing an offering to church. Go get the money and put it in an envelope or set it aside so it’s ready for worship.
 - Look at the food card. Think about how you could donate food in the community. Is there a food pantry, or a homeless shelter, or another way to share food with the hungry? Put a bag of food together and decide what day you’ll deliver it.
 - Check out the toy card. For the next birthday in your family, invite that person to choose an organization where gifts could be donated. Party guests could bring something for that organization. The birthday boy or girl could help deliver all the presents that are gathered in his or her honor.
 - Clothes card: go through your closets and drawers and decide what you can give away to a younger friend or neighbor or a clothes closet in the community.
 - Talent cards: How can you share what you’re good at with people in your neighborhood, church, and community?
 - What other ways can your family come up with to share God’s overflowing gifts and love with others?
9. Finish with a prayer:

Dear God, thank you for giving us your love. Thank you for giving us all the things we’ve talked about today. You are our shepherd and we love you. Help us to be generous and share with others. Amen.

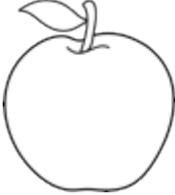
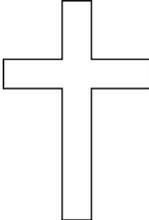
Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Everything in My World Cards

<p>Home</p> 	<p>Food</p> 	<p>Clothes</p> 
<p>Money</p> 	<p>Family</p> 	<p>Friends</p> 
<p>Teachers</p> 	<p>Stuffed Animals</p> 	<p>Church Family</p> 
<p>Toys</p> 	<p>Weather</p> 	<p>Doctor</p> 
<p>My Talent from God:</p>	<p>My Family's Talent from God:</p>	<p>Something I want to thank God for:</p>