

in the presence of those who  
worship you  
I will offer the sacrifices I  
promised.

**26** The poor will eat as much as  
they want;  
those who come to the LORD  
will praise him.  
May they prosper forever!

**27** All nations will remember the  
LORD.  
From every part of the world  
they will turn to him;  
all races will worship him.

**28** The LORD is king,  
and he rules the nations.

**29** All proud people will bow down  
to him;  
all mortals will bow down  
before him.

**30** Future generations will serve  
him;  
they will speak of the Lord to  
the coming generation.

**31** People not yet born will be told:  
"The Lord saved his people."

**The LORD Our Shepherd**

**23** <sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd;  
I have everything I need.

**2** He lets me rest in fields of green  
grass  
and leads me to quiet pools of  
fresh water.

**3** He gives me new strength.  
He guides me in the right paths,  
as he has promised.

**4** Even if I go through the deepest  
darkness,  
I will not be afraid, LORD,  
for you are with me.  
Your shepherd's rod and staff  
protect me.

**5** You prepare a banquet for me,  
where all my enemies can  
see me;  
you welcome me as an honored  
guest  
and fill my cup to the brim.

**6** I know that your goodness and  
love will be with me all my  
life;  
and your house will be my  
home as long as I live.

**The Great King**

**24** <sup>1</sup> The world and all that is in it  
belong to the LORD;  
the earth and all who live on it  
are his.

**2** He built it on the deep waters  
beneath the earth  
and laid its foundations in the  
ocean depths.

**3** Who has the right to go up the  
LORD's hill?  
Who may enter his holy  
Temple?

**4** Those who are pure in act and  
in thought,  
who do not worship idols  
or make false promises.

**5** The LORD will bless them and  
save them;  
God will declare them  
innocent.

**6** Such are the people who come  
to God,  
who come into the presence of  
the God of Jacob.

**7** Fling wide the gates,  
open the ancient doors,  
and the great king will  
come in.

**8** Who is this great king?

He is the LORD, strong and mighty,  
the LORD, victorious in battle.

- 9 Fling wide the gates,  
open the ancient doors,  
and the great king will come in.  
10 Who is this great king?  
The LORD Almighty—he is the  
great king!

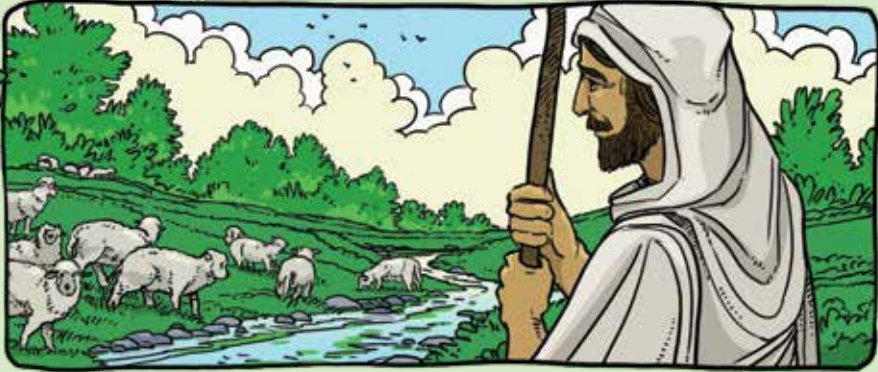
### A Prayer for Guidance and Protection

- 25** <sup>1</sup> To you, O LORD, I offer my  
prayer;  
<sup>2</sup> in you, my God, I trust.  
Save me from the shame of  
defeat;  
don't let my enemies gloat  
over me!  
<sup>3</sup> Defeat does not come to those  
who trust in you,  
but to those who are quick to  
rebel against you.  
<sup>4</sup> Teach me your ways, O LORD;  
make them known to me.  
<sup>5</sup> Teach me to live according to  
your truth,  
for you are my God, who  
saves me.  
I always trust in you.  
<sup>6</sup> Remember, O LORD, your  
kindness and constant love  
which you have shown from  
long ago.  
<sup>7</sup> Forgive the sins and errors of my  
youth.  
In your constant love and  
goodness,  
remember me, LORD!  
<sup>8</sup> Because the LORD is righteous  
and good,

he teaches sinners the path  
they should follow.

- 9 He leads the humble in the right  
way  
and teaches them his will.  
10 With faithfulness and love he  
leads  
all who keep his covenant and  
obey his commands.  
11 Keep your promise, LORD, and  
forgive my sins,  
for they are many.  
12 Those who have reverence for  
the LORD  
will learn from him the path  
they should follow.  
13 They will always be prosperous,  
and their children will possess  
the land.  
14 The LORD is the friend of those  
who obey him  
and he affirms his covenant  
with them.  
15 I look to the LORD for help at all  
times,  
and he rescues me from  
danger.  
16 Turn to me, LORD, and be  
merciful to me,  
because I am lonely and  
weak.  
17 Relieve me of my worries  
and save me from all my  
troubles.  
18 Consider my distress and  
suffering  
and forgive all my sins.  
19 See how many enemies I have;  
see how much they hate me.  
20 Protect me and save me;  
keep me from defeat.  
I come to you for safety.

# God Is Our Shepherd Who Cares for Us



Psalm 23:1-6

1 The LORD is my **shepherd**; I have everything I need. 2 He lets me rest in fields of green grass and leads me to quiet pools of fresh water. 3 He gives me new strength. He guides me in the right paths, as he has promised. 4 Even if I go through the deepest darkness, I will not be afraid, LORD, for you are with me. Your shepherd's **rod** and **staff** protect me. 5 You prepare a **banquet** for me, where all my enemies can see me; you welcome me as an honored guest and fill my cup to the brim. 6 I know that your goodness and love will be with me all my life; and your house will be my home as long as I live.

**shepherd** someone who takes care of sheep

**rod** short, heavy stick

**staff** hooked stick used to guide sheep

**banquet** a large meal or a feast



## Understand It!

You have probably never seen a shepherd. A shepherd guides sheep to food and water. He makes sure that the sheep stay away from cliffs and thorns. He protects them from wolves and other dangerous animals. At night the shepherd counts his sheep and finds any sheep that are missing.

A shepherd is a sheep's best friend because he keeps the sheep safe and cares for their needs. In this prayer from Psalm 23, we call God our shepherd because he is our guide and protector. He gives us food and everything we need. He shows us the right way to live. Wouldn't you agree that God is our best friend?

## Live It!

Draw a picture to remind you that God is your shepherd. First start by copying the words of Psalm 23:1 at the top of a sheet of paper. Then draw a shepherd. Color in green grass and a blue stream of water. Draw sheep around the shepherd. You might draw one sheep for each member of your family. Pray the words on the poster when you are feeling afraid or alone.

Psalm 23  
STORY

## Tell It!



1



2



3



4

Using the pictures above, retell this reading in your own words.

