

17.01 David, the Shepherd (1 Samuel 17:34–36; Psalms 8:5–8; 23; Luke 15:4–7; John 10:1–16; Hebrews 13:12; 1 Peter 5:4)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows
[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.
- Find large visuals for the 23rd Psalm so that students can read it, or print individual copies found below. Print copies (see below) or find Bibles for the students’ reading of John 10:1-18.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *shepherd*: a person who cares for sheep; think “sheep herd”
- *to sacrifice*: to slay an animal as an offering to God for one’s sins; the animal itself is also called a *sacrifice*
- *saviour*: one who saves someone from danger; *Saviour* means Jesus Christ, who saves from sin

Scripture: (ESV)

1 Samuel 17:34 But David said to Saul, “Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, 35 I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. 36 Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God.” 37 And David said, “The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.” And Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord be with you!”

(KJV) Psalm 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. 3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

(ESV) Luke 15:3 So he told them this parable: 4 “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ 7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

(ESV) John 10:1 “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. 2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” 6 This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

7 So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will

be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. 11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13 He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.”

(ESV) Hebrews 13:20 Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, 21 equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

(ESV) 1 Peter 5:4 And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

Introduction/Review:

What is the job of a shepherd? It is to lead sheep to green grass and to water, to protect from predators, to find the strays. Do you think a shepherd’s job is easy? [Allow opinions.] Does the job of a shepherd require bravery? Yes, especially when wild animals come and the shepherd must protect the sheep.

Name some shepherds we have learned about in the Bible from Genesis through Judges. [Abel, Abraham, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, Rachel, Jacob’s sons, Moses.] I imagine a shepherd could get bored because most of the time there wouldn’t be much to do. What could a shepherd do to keep from getting bored if [s]he had no electronic devices to entertain? Well, [s]he could practice singing, could think about the Bible and God, could pray, could make up poetry or stories, could practice with a bow and arrow or a sling shot, could draw pictures, and much more. But the most important thing would be to care for those sheep.

Story:

David

Today we begin our stories about David. Only three verses tell us much about his being a shepherd even though he was one for several years of his young life. This is what he said about being a shepherd: “I used to keep sheep for my father. When a lion came, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, I went after him and struck him and delivered the lamb out of the mouth of the lion or bear. And if a wild animal arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. I have struck down both lions and bears because the Lord delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear.” It sounds as if David was a brave shepherd.

The Bible often compares people to sheep. Some say that’s because sheep and people aren’t too smart. Maybe that is or is not true, but I think the main reason is because sheep need to follow and depend on their shepherds. So, too, believers in Jesus Christ need to follow and depend on Him.

That is certainly what David wrote about in Psalm 23. Let’s read this psalm together. [Read from printed copies or from the Bible itself.] As we read, I will stop to explain each line. [Adapted from [psalm 23 line by line meaning image - Bing images](#).]

The LORD is my shepherd. (I have a relationship with the Lord.)

I shall not want. (The Lord supplies all I need.)

2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures. (He gives me rest.)

He leadeth me beside the still waters. (The Lord gives refreshment.)

3 He restoreth my soul. (He heals my hurts.)

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness. (He guides me in good and right ways.)

For his name’s sake. (This is His purpose—the glory of God.)

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death. (I will be tested.)

I will fear no evil. (He protects me, so I need not fear.)
For thou art with me. (God is faithful.)
Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. (God's weapons will drive off the enemy.)
5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies. (God gives me hope even in danger.)
Thou anointest my head with oil. (God sets me apart for His work.)
My cup runneth over. (God blesses abundantly.)
6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. (God is good all of the time.)
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord. (I am secure in Christ.)
For ever. (If I am God's child, I will live with Him eternally.)

Jesus

Jesus is the *Lord* of Psalm 23. He is the Shepherd of those men and women and boys and girls who have trusted Him to be their Saviour.

In John 10 Jesus tells us a lot about His care for His sheep—those who know Him as their Lord and Saviour. He says He is not only the Shepherd but also the door of the sheep fold, the place where the sheep sometimes stay. Think of the sheepfold as the place where Christians are safe in God's care.

The shepherd in Bible times would lie in the doorway of the sheep fold so that no one and nothing could get into the fold without going through the "door"—the shepherd himself. Jesus said He is the Door.

[Read John 10:1-16, stopping as indicated to verify understanding.]

1 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. 2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." . . .

Who tries to get into the sheep fold some way other than by the door? [Thieves and robbers.] The sheep whose voice? [The shepherd's.] Because the sheep do not know the voice of strangers, what do they do when a stranger calls them? [Flee from him.]

7 "So Jesus again said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.

What three things does the thief try to do to the sheep? [Steal, kill, and destroy.]

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. 11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.' . . .

What are two things the good shepherd does? [Give abundant life; lay down his life for the sheep.]

14 "I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd."

Lambs

Now, switch gears a bit. The Bible tells us that our sins separate us from God. In order for a person to be brought into a right relationship with God, a life needs to be sacrificed. In the Old Testament, people had to offer perfect lambs as sacrifices to cover their sins. As you can see in this picture [shown below], these lambs were slain and their blood was sprinkled on the altar. Then the lamb was burned on the altar as a substitute for the person who offered the lamb.

Now, however, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself has become the sacrifice. A Bible verse says of Jesus, "Look,

there's the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world!" (John 1:29). How could be a lamb? He could be the Lamb that was sacrificed. How could Jesus become a sacrifice? If you know the story about Jesus' crucifixion, you know the answer. Jesus said in John 10:15, "I lay down my life for the sheep."

Jesus died a death of excruciating pain and suffering on the cross. He shed His blood just as the lamb had shed its blood in the Old Testament. A lamb's blood could not pay for the sins of a person for very long, but Jesus' blood pays for all the sins of everyone who truly believes on Him and only for those who believe He is their Saviour. God's Word tells us that Jesus gave His life for the *sheep*. Also, we Jesus was able to save His sheep because He did not stay dead. He rose again, coming alive from the grave and thus proving He had power over sin and death. Christ arose! He is living now. Trust Him to be your Saviour!

Lessons from this lesson:

- Jesus is God:
He is the Good Shepherd who gives His life for the sheep (John 10).
He is also the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29).
- No matter how dull a job we might have, as long as we don't neglect our duties, we can pray.

Activities:

- Play dough: cookie cutters of sheep; put green dough through holes on a Play Doh[®] machine for grass
- Snack: Graham cracker sheep as seen at <https://dancingthroughtherain.com/no-bake-sheep-grahams/>
- Hide a stuffed toy sheep or a cut-out of a sheep; have students find it.
- Sing "I am the Door" (found below).
- Review questions: (Game: Cut nine sheep out of felt. See pattern with John 10 below. A student who answers a question correctly may place a sheep on the flannel board.)
 1. Name two animals that tried to take sheep from David. [Lion, bear.]
 2. How did David slay those animals? [Took them by the beard and slew them.]
 3. Who was David's Shepherd? [The Lord.]
 4. What do the sheep do when a stranger calls them? [Flee from him.]
 5. Fill in the blank. Jesus said, "I am the _____ of the sheep. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture." [Door.]
 6. Fill in the blank. Jesus said, "I came that they may have _____ and have it abundantly." [Life.]
 7. What does Jesus do for His sheep? [Gives His life for them.]
 8. Who is the Good Shepherd in Scripture? [Jesus.]

Memory Verse[s]: [Work on memorizing these verses for ten weeks or so.]

- Psalm 23 (KJV)—1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. 3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Handwork:

- Color the picture found below of John 1:29. Glue sheep's wool, cotton, or fiber fill on the sheep.
- Or make a paper-sack lamb puppet. Find templates and instructions at [Paper Bag Lamb Puppet \(freekidscrafts.com\)](http://freekidscrafts.com). (Beware of clicking "Open" and "Start" buttons on this site!)

shepherd

sacrifice

saviour

Saviour

23rd Psalm

*The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want.*

*He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.*

*He restoreth my soul:
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.*

*Yea, though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*

*Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house
of the LORD for ever.*

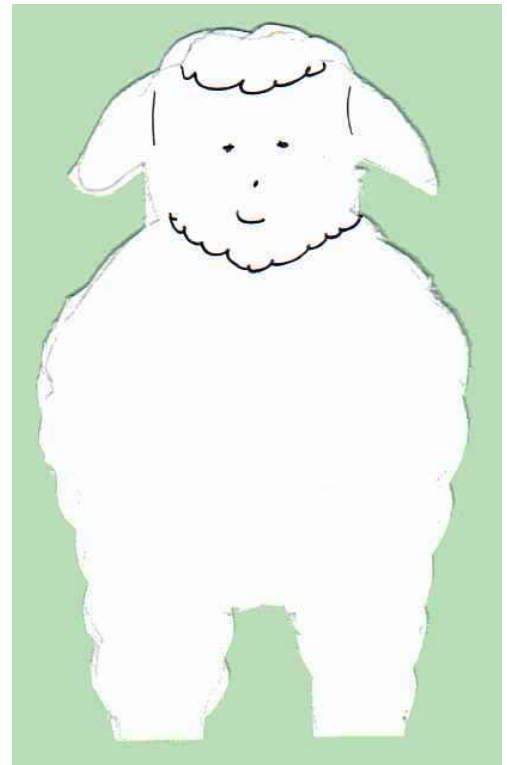
King James Version

John 10

1 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. **2** But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. **3** To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. **4** When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. **5** A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." . . .

7 So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. **8** All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. **9** I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. **10** The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. **11** I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. **12** He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. . . .

14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, **15** just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. **16** And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd."







[lion - Bing images](#)



[brown-bear-attack.jpg](#) (1600×1062) ([ibtimes.co.uk](#))

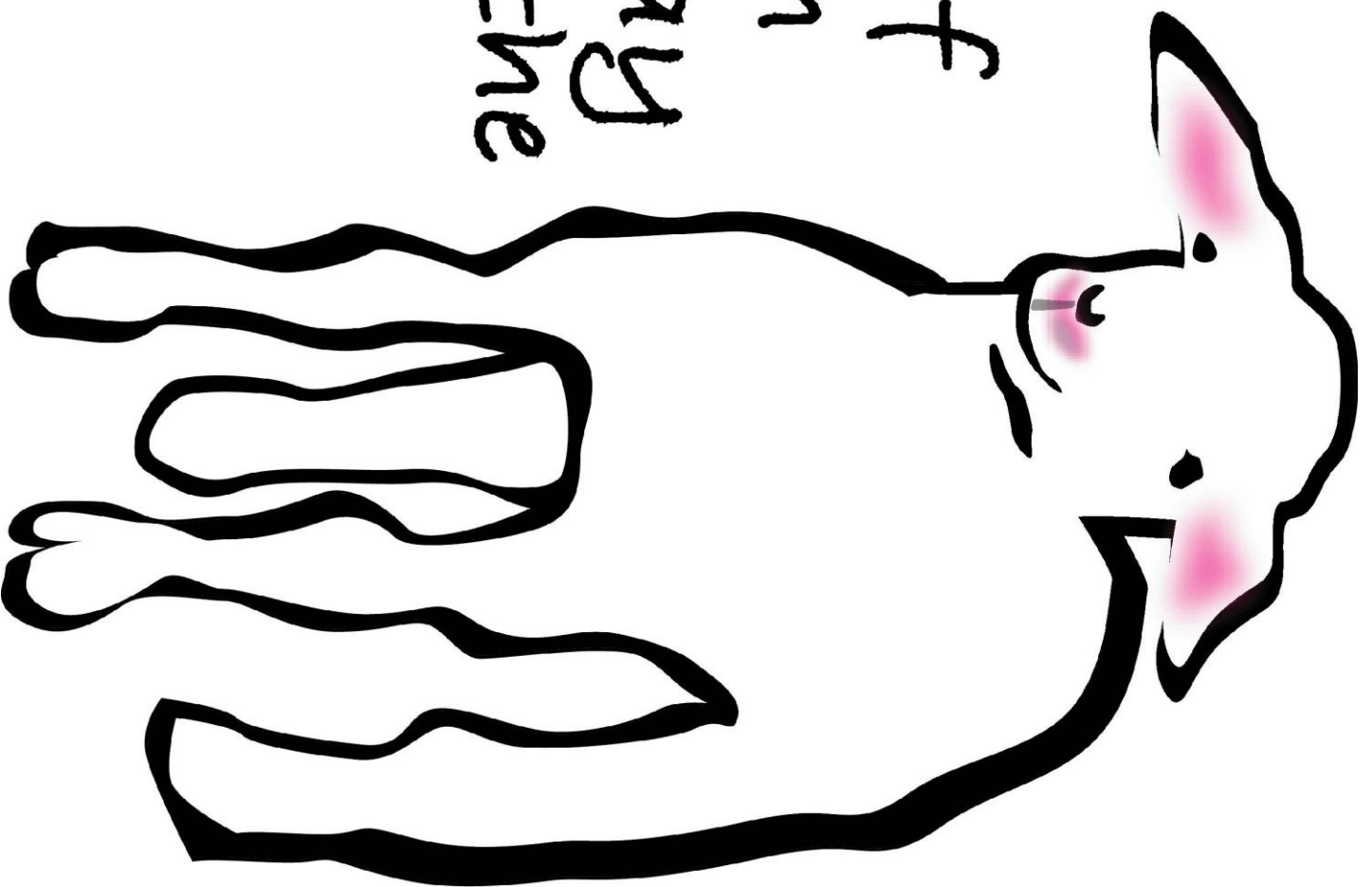




<http://www.spirit-of-prophecy-1844.com/resources/Lamb%20on%20altar%20sacrifice.jpg?timestamp=1351543375906>

Behold
the
Lamb of
God, which
taketh away
the sin of the
world.

John 1: 29



I AM THE DOOR

John 10:9

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble and bass staff. The treble staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a time signature of 6/8. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes. The bass staff begins with a bass clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a time signature of 6/8. The accompaniment consists of chords and single notes. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The second system also has a treble and bass staff with the same key signature and time signature. The melody continues with eighth and quarter notes. The accompaniment continues with chords and single notes. The lyrics continue below the treble staff.

I am the Door, — I am the Door, By Me if an - y man
I am the Door, the words are but four, Mil-lions are in, but there's

en - ter in — He shall be saved, He shall be saved, He shall be saved.
room for more, The door's o - pen wide, Come right inside, and thou shalt be saved.