

Our Good Shepherd

By Beth Beall

Psalm 23 describes God as our Shepherd. Read two versions of Psalm 23, and then imagine following the Good Shepherd as you make your way through a labyrinth.

For

Just for Kids

Season

Spring



by [Waiting For The Word](http://WaitingForTheWord.com)

Needed

A printer so that you can print out the labyrinth (optional), pencil (optional, if you print out the labyrinth)

Activity Plan

1. Prayer helps us to quiet down and listen for God. Begin this activity by praying the prayer below.

"You are my Good Shepherd, Lord. I have everything I need. Thank you. Amen."

2. Follow these links to read two different versions of Psalm 23. The first is from an ancient translation of the Bible called the King James Bible. The second is from a contemporary translation of the Bible called the Contemporary English Version.

[Psalm 23](#) from the King James Bible:

[Psalm 23](#) from the Contemporary English Version of the Bible:

3. I wonder if you prefer how Psalm 23 sounds in the King James Bible or the Contemporary English Bible? Or perhaps you like the sound of both translations? Psalm 23 describes the Good Shepherd as taking care of us: the shepherd provides what we need ("green grass and cool water"), the shepherd is with us in scary places, the shepherd feeds us, and the shepherd surrounds us with love. I wonder when you have met the Good Shepherd?
4. A labyrinth (LAB-rinth) is a pattern that leads us into a center and back out again. There are large labyrinths on the floors of churches and in outdoor spaces, and people walk upon them. There are also small labyrinths that can be placed upon a desk or a nightstand, and people use a tiny stick or their finger to trace their way through the pattern. For followers of Jesus, moving through the labyrinth can help us to quiet down and open our hearts to God. There is only one way into the labyrinth, and one way out, so you do not need to worry about making a wrong turn.

5. Below is a labyrinth that you can print off or simply use online. Place one of your fingers at the opening to the labyrinth. Imagine that you are following God, your Good Shepherd, into the labyrinth. Perhaps you will want to pray the words, "You are my shepherd, God," as you make your way to the center. When you get to the center, you might want to rest for a while. Imagine the Good Shepherd holding you, or talking with you. Then, when it's time for you to follow the Good Shepherd back out of the labyrinth, perhaps you will want to pray the words, "I have everything I need."

