



# הַרְפוּעַת הַרְפוּעַת הַרְפוּעַת

## THE SHEPHERD

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.

John 10:27-28

### LESSON 2



FOUNDATION  
FOR INTELLIGENT  
MEDIA & DESIGN



# LEADER PREPARATION

## Dear Small Group Leader:

Shepherds in Scripture were individuals who tended to and cared for sheep. They played significant roles in several biblical stories, and shepherding was a common occupation in ancient Israel and the surrounding regions. From Abel, one of the first shepherds ever mentioned, to Abraham, Jacob, Moses, and David. And, of course, accumulating with Jesus who describes himself as our Good Shepherd. But the occupation of shepherding holds symbolic significance in various biblical narratives, often representing themes of care, guidance, and leadership.

When we think of shepherds today we probably think of modernized practices that bring little context to what shepherds like David would have faced in their day.

Advanced technologies such as GPS tracking and electric fences have given access to more comforts. Communication and transportation have improved allowing for easier access and assistance. The use of enclosures and guardian animals, sheep dogs, have reduced predator threats. Nowadays it's not important to know your sheep. They are numbered and stored in databases giving you necessary information when needed.

Although shepherding has become more efficient and economically viable, it has also become more distant, more detached. Shepherds like David truly had to know their sheep. Their relationship with the flock was so strong that each individual animal would be able to discern the shepherd's voice. The shepherd had the unique ability to call out a single sheep from the herd of about a hundred. It was a demanding and very physical occupation, spending long hours in the wilderness, protecting the flock from predators, guiding them through natural pastures in search of food and water.

In this lesson we will explore David's time as a shepherd and how God used it to teach him about leadership, guidance, and God's very own character. It's a lesson about God's care and provision helping us to rely on him in our daily lives as our Good shepherd.

## Scripture References

- Psalm 23:1-4 NIV
- 1 Samuel 16:1-13 NIV
- John 10:11-15; 27-28 NIV



## Lesson Objectives

1. Students will understand the Biblical role of shepherds and how this occupation has helped David as king.
2. Students will see how Jesus is our Good Shepherd.

## Main Point

Jesus is my Good Shepherd and I will listen to His voice.

## Requirements

- Bible
- PC or Laptop with Anointed DSK
- Handout

Download The  
Anointed



## Opening Prayer

Start the lesson in prayer with the group.

## Discussion

**Say:** In the Bible, shepherds played a significant role in the lives of many prominent figures, including David, who later became the great King of Israel. Looking at shepherds in the Bible will help us understand the symbolic meaning as well as how it connects to our relationship with Jesus. It was a relevant profession in ancient Israel and looking at it from David's perspective will help us learn about courage, responsibility, and trust in God.

**Question 1:** What are some of the responsibilities and qualities of a shepherd?

**Say:** The most basic responsibility of Shepherds is to take care of sheep. It was a common profession. Shepherds were responsible for tending to and protecting their flocks, often spending long hours in the fields. They faced various challenges, including protecting their sheep from predators such as lions and bears. They had to find suitable pastures and water sources for their flocks and they developed deep relationships with their sheep, caring for their well-being. The same title that's used for the profession of herding sheep is also used for leaders who were called by God to lead his People. In today's lesson you will see how the two connect and why Jesus is described as our Good Shepherd.



## GAME DISCUSSION



**Say:** Consider the following questions while they play the game.

**Question 1:** What are some of the lessons that David learned as a shepherd?

**Question 2:** How has David's role as a shepherd shaped his character and prepared him for leadership.

**Question 3:** How does David's role as a shepherd help paint a picture of how Jesus is our Good Shepherd?

## Activity

- Play through David saves Keilah.
- Complete and take notes on chapter objectives:
  - Dialogue
  - Quiz
  - Prayer Beacon
  - Vases

**Let's Play The  
Anointed**



## Game Discussion

**Question 1:** As you were thinking about the questions before playing the game, what stood out to you?

**Question 2:** What responsibilities did David have as a shepherd?

**Question 3:** How did playing the game help shape your view of what it meant to be a shepherd in those times?

**Say:** In order for the sheep to be taken care of, the shepherd had to guide the flock across natural pastures in search of food and water. David had to develop a strong relationship with each sheep so they would get used to his voice and guidance. Once the sheep became used to him, they would follow him anywhere and do what he said. On top of that, since there were no modern fenced enclosures, as you might see today, David had to protect his sheep from dangerous predators, equipt with only a staff and a slingshot.

**Say:** As we read scripture together, write down some of David's shepherding qualities and how it's often connected with Jesus' character as our Good Shepherd.



## Scripture Context

In the Bible, shepherds were individuals who tended to and cared for sheep. They played significant roles in several biblical stories, and shepherding was a common occupation in ancient Israel and the surrounding regions. From Abel, one of the first shepherds ever mentioned, to Abraham, Jacob, Moses, and David. And, of course, accumulating with Jesus who describes himself as our Good Shepherd. But the occupation of shepherding holds symbolic significance in various biblical narratives, often representing themes of care, guidance, and leadership.

## Read Scripture

### 1 SAMUEL 16:1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king." But Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me." The Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.'<sup>3</sup> Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate." Samuel did what the Lord said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, "Do you come in peace?" Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The Lord has not chosen this one either." Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The Lord has not chosen these." So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives." So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one." So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.



**PSALM 23:1-4**

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
he leads me beside quiet waters,  
he refreshes my soul.  
He guides me along the right paths  
for his name's sake.  
Even 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.

**JOHN 10:11-15**

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

**JOHN 10:27-28**

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.



## Scripture Discussion

### **A Shepherd's heart.**

#### **1 Samuel 16:1-13**

To understand the heart of David as shepherd we have to look at what it meant to be a shepherd in those times. To give a little context, sheep aren't the smartest of animals. If a sheep would wander off or get lost, it would just stay there and die. A sheep isolated from the flock is incapable of providing for itself and becomes easy prey for dangerous animals in the area. Point is, they depended on the care and protection of the shepherd.

The shepherd had to care for his sheep and not lose sight of them.

**Question 1:** Why do you think God chose David the shepherd boy to be the next king of Israel?

**Question 2:** How has shepherding helped shape David's heart and character?

**Question 3:** How did shepherding help prepare David to take care of people ?

### **God's Provision and Protection.**

#### **Psalms 23:1-4**

Think about lying down in green pastures.

**Question 1:** What comes to mind?

Say: What you imagined is probably a bit different to what David would have thought of as he wrote the Psalm. The game does a good job of showing you the landscape and countryside of Israel. It may look beautiful, but it's a rocky desert wasteland, nothing comfortable about this place. It's not a lush field of grass that may have come to your mind. It's a place where the flock depends on the shepherd for everything. Food, water, safety. The flock would quickly succumb to hunger, thirst or predators without the shepherd's guidance, guard, and care. It's a land that for a sheep, demands faith and trust in a shepherd.

**Question 2:** What is something that you depend on God for?

Say: With the little rain they would get each year, these little blades of grass would grow between the rocks. The shepherd would move the sheep across the hillside, pick up the little grass that's there, and then keep moving. And it's one mouth full here, walk a little more, one bite there. You see there's not much, but it's just enough. So often in our lives we worry about what's tomorrow but in the desert, you will learn to trust the shepherd. He will get you what you need right now! Just enough.

**Question 3:** What is something that you are worried about?



**Say:** This is the setting, a land which seems to lack everything, where David composed Psalm 23. It promises that when I look to God as my shepherd, he provides just what I need. Just enough. Food, water, shelter, security, all of which seem to be lacking in this place. But the Psalm isn't about what you don't have, but what you do. And when the Lord is the shepherd of the flock, then this land lacks nothing whatsoever.

**Question 4:** What is something that you need to trust God to provide for you?

**Question 5:** In what ways can we rely on God's protection for our own lives?

### **The Good Shepherd.**

#### **John 10:11-15; 27-28**

We've been looking at some of the characteristics and qualities of Shepherds, and we have established the dependability of the sheep to their shepherd. Their need to be cared for and covered by the shepherd's protection. When we discover Jesus as our Good Shepherd it is implied that we are his sheep. We can enjoy a relationship with Jesus as our shepherd. As the one who will care for us, protect us, and willingly lay down His life for us. He knows His sheep individually and calls them by name, emphasizing the personal relationship He has with each of us.

**Question 1:** In what ways is Jesus our Good Shepherd?

**Say:** In the illustration that Jesus gives, the family of God represents a place of security. His sheep will know his voice and follow him. When we are in a relationship with him, we become part of his flock. Jesus leads us by His example. He guides us by walking ahead of us And His sheep hear His voice, that is, we know His voice and recognize Him as our leader.

**Question 2:** How can we recognize and listen to Jesus' voice?

**Question 3:** Share a moment when you have listened to His voice and guidance?

**Say:** As we discovered earlier, it was essential for the sheep to know and recognize their own shepherd's voice. There had to be an unmistakable familiarity between sheep and shepherd for the sheep to feel safe and know which voice to follow.

**Question 4:** What are distractions that could make it difficult to listen to the voice of Jesus?

**Say:** One primary way we hear the Lord's voice is through the Word of God. By hearing His voice in Scripture, we get to know Him, and knowing Him produces faith, and that faith causes us to follow and obey.





**Say:** David's time as a shepherd has prepared him in many ways that would allow him to prosper as king of Israel. God has used David's shepherding skills to train him in areas of leadership, courage, and provision. His story connects us to our Good Shepherd, our Lord Jesus. By understanding the role of the shepherd as well as the responsibility of the sheep we can confidently put our faith and trust in Jesus. Of His sheep, Jesus said, "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand." When we put our faith in him we are His forever. Jesus laid down his life on the cross to give us eternal life and find safety in his sheep flock for all eternity. It's our responsibility now to trust and obey Him, paying attention to his voice to guide us.

**Question 5:** In what ways does this lesson help you develop a shepherd's heart?

**Question 6:** How can we rely on Jesus as our Good Shepherd?

**Reflect:** Give students time to reflect and respond on their own. Talk about any questions they may have and feel free to share relatable stories that reflect the lesson.

## Closing Prayer

End this together by setting the example for prayer and praying over your students.

**IMD Interactive**  
Church Resources:

