



Impact Kids Fall 2025

Older Kids Leader Guide

October 8, 2025

Psalm 23- God is my shepherd, I have all I need, and He helps me feel safe.
Psalm 23:1

Bible- Oct 8- *Psalm 23:4 & Exodus 13:17-22* God is with us in hard times.



At a Glance



The Code

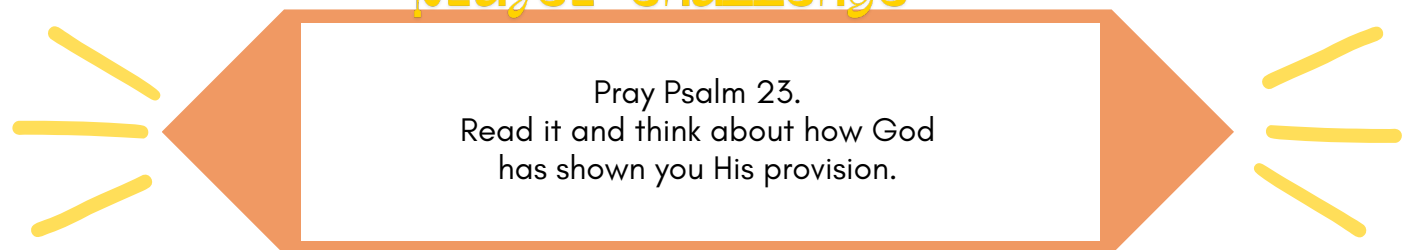


Gospel Page



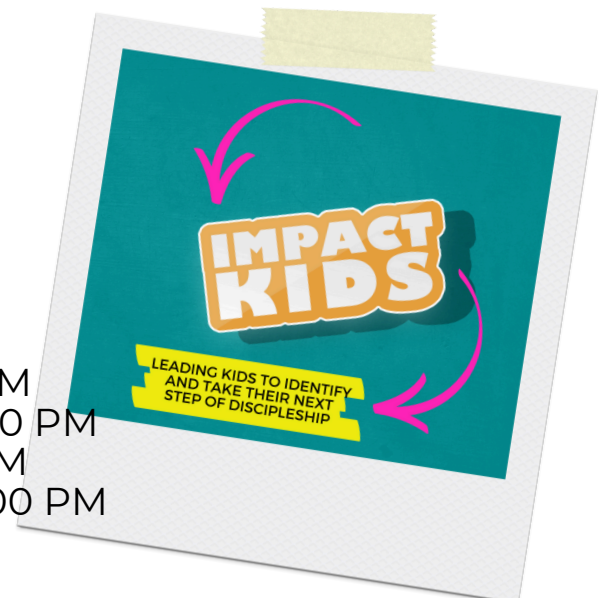
**Psalm 23
Leader Devo**

prayer challenge



Wednesday Group Schedule

Leaders Arrive: 6:15 PM
Family Dinner: 6:30 PM – 6:50 PM
K-3rd Outside Play: 6:50 PM- 7:20 PM
4th & 5th Small Group: 6:50 PM- 7:30 PM
K-3rd Small Group: 7:25 PM- 8:00 PM
4th & 5th Outside Play: 7:30 PM- 8:00 PM
Dismiss: 8:00 PM- 8:05 PM



Low Energy Game:

Supplies:

- 16-ounce plastic cups (2 for every 3 kids)
- pencils with erasers
- yardsticks (1 for every 6 kids)
- several small paper plates
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

Set up 3 tables or “stations” in your space. Place a stack of 16-ounce cups on one, yardsticks and plates on another, and pencils and another stack of cups on the third.

Master Three Not-So-Easy Challenges

Say: I have three not-so-easy-breezy challenges for you to try. You’ll work with a partner, and you’ll have one minute for each challenge.

- First, quickly demonstrate each challenge so kids know what to do.
- Challenge 1: Throw a cup and try to make it land so it stands upright.
- Challenge 2: Balance a yardstick precariously on the very end of one corner of the table. Then work with your partner to see how many plates you can balance on the ends of the yardstick without making it fall.
- Challenge 3: Bounce pencils on their erasers into a cup.

Form pairs, and have them start at different stations around the room. On “go,” pairs have a minute to accomplish the challenge.

Verbally count down from 60 as kids play. When 60 seconds is up, shout “Switch!” and have groups rotate clockwise to the next station.

Let pairs try each station at least two times. If you’d like, play upbeat music while kids play.

Gather everyone to debrief after the final 60 seconds.

Talk About It

Ask: • What’s one word you’d use to describe your feelings during that not-so-easy-breezy challenge? Why?

• How were these challenges like or unlike tough things we face in life?

Say: Challenging times in life can leave us feeling frustrated and discouraged. I never promised the activities would be easy, and God has never promised that life would be easy. But God is with us in hard times. We can talk to him about our frustrations and know that even if he doesn’t make hard things easy, he’s with us and will give us strength.

Talk About Video:

Discuss and Watch “Bryan’s Story”

Say: God is with us in hard times. Sometimes it can be hard to remember God is there when things get really scary or sad. Let’s see how a boy named Bryan saw God during hard times.

Ask: • What do you think is the hardest thing Bryan had to go through?

• How did you see God at work even though Bryan had a hard time?

• Tell about a story of your own that Bryan’s story reminded you of.

Share your own story first.

Say: Bryan lost his home and all his stuff. He had to move far away. He was really scared of the storm! But God kept Bryan and his family safe from the storm and even helped Bryan’s friends remake the picture he lost. God is with us in hard times, so let’s remember to look for him!

Deeper Bible:

Supplies

- Bibles
- construction paper (1 sheet per child)
- plain white paper (several sheets per child)
- markers
- tape
- glue sticks
- plain white paper

Prep:

- Tear Up Paper
- Set out tape, and give each child a sheet of construction paper. Set out markers, and have each child draw a self-portrait.
- Then have kids tear their portraits into 10 to 15 pieces. As kids tear their papers, have them name hard times they’ve experienced or someone they know has experienced.

Say: Your papers have become a jumbled mess. Hold up the tape. Tape might help patch things up. After all, it’s right here next to you! But you’re not allowed to use it. Even though it could fix your paper and put it back together, I’m not going to let you use it.

Ask: • What do you think of my no-tape rule?

• Does it ever feel like God is choosing not to help you fix your problems? Talk about that.

Say: Today we’re learning that God is with us in hard times. And we also know that God is good and that he’s all-powerful. So if God is with us, and he could fix our problems, is he like the tape? If God is with us in hard times, why doesn’t he just fix them? Let’s dig in to that.

Deeper Bible: cont

Dig Deeper

Ask: • Have you ever had to take a pet to the vet? What are some reasons you take your pet to the vet?

• How did your pet react?

Say: Most dogs and cats can't understand how a vet could possibly be a good thing. They think it's torture! But we know that the vet is there to help them stay healthy and happy.

That's kind of like what the Bible says about hard times in our lives.

They can actually be good for us! There may be a reason for your hard time...even if you don't see it right now.

Read James 1:2-4.

Ask: • How has a hard time helped you grow?

Say: So I may not let you use tape to fix your paper. But what if you could rearrange your paper scraps, maybe mix them with some colors from other kids' papers, and make a cool mosaic?

Give each child a sheet of plain white paper, and set out glue sticks to share.

Allow time for kids to make mosaics.

Say: Without ripping your paper, you never could've made these awesome mosaics. Sometimes hard times can help us grow and be even better, happier people! Or sometimes hard times lead us to a better understanding of God's peace and power. God is with us in hard times, and when we turn to him with our problems and worries, we can grow in faith.

These verses list two good things that can come out of hard times. Listen for those two good things.

Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-5, and ask kids to share what good things they heard.

Ask: • When have you felt God comforting you?

• Tell about a time you helped someone else because of something hard you experienced.

Say: It's kind of like this.

Give each child a fresh sheet of white paper. Have kids crumple it, then uncrumple it and feel the difference. Then have kids keep crumpling and uncrumpling a number of times until they feel the paper getting softer.

Say: Paper isn't something we think of as soft. But the more "hard times" it went through as we crumpled it, the softer it got. God is with us in hard times, and he can soften our hearts through dark valleys so we're a comfort to other people.

Here's the reality: We live in a broken world, so we're going to have hard times. But we have hope! Listen to what Jesus said about that.

Read John 16:33.

Ask: • Jesus said to take heart because he has overcome the world. How does that help you?

Say: When we face troubles, we can take heart knowing that they can't defeat us because Jesus has the ultimate victory! Here's one way to look at the positive side of hard times.

Read 2 Corinthians 4:8-10.

Ask: • Think of a hard time you're going through right now. What "but" could you add to show you have hope?

Say: God is with us in hard times, and he doesn't always fix them. But he can always bring good out of them, and we always have hope that one day, all our troubles will be gone. We can change our focus from our problems to the hope we have. Let's look at things differently.

Give each child a fresh sheet of paper, and have kids roll their papers into "telescopes." Have kids look through their telescopes as you read 2 Corinthians 4:17-18.

Life Application:

Supplies

- no supplies

Walk Through the Valley

- Have kids sit somewhere in the dark valley
- Turn off the lights.
- Have kids spend a few minutes talking silently with Jesus about things in their lives that feel like dark valleys.
- After a few minutes, turn on the lights and let kids exit the valley.

Pray: God, thank you that you are with us in hard times. Thank you that whether we're in a valley or not, you are there. In Jesus' name, amen.

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.

Activity Page with a Point:

Older Kids: Color a Coloring Page

Supplies Needed: Coloring Page, pencils, crayons

Say: Psalm 23 talks about how God is a shepherd. God is with us in hard times, just like a shepherd walks with his sheep through scary places like dark valleys. When God's people were in a scary situation, God was with them. He even led them by giving them a flame in the sky to follow!

Let's see what it's like to have someone with us when things are dark.

Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Kids will attempt to do the maze with their eyes closed—no peeking! When kids think they're done, they can open their eyes.

Ask: • So how'd you do?

• When has your life felt like this maze—confusing and difficult?

Say: Let's see the difference it makes when we have someone with us. Distribute a fresh activity page to each child, and have them form pairs. Kids will take turns doing the maze with their eyes closed, while their partners hold their hands and lead them through the maze (with eyes open).

Ask: • What difference did it make to have a partner with you? How could you tell they were there?

• How can you tell God is with you, even when life feels dark?

Say: God is with us in hard times, just as your partner was with you as you went through the dark maze

ANSWER KEY:

