



Impact Kids Fall 2025

Older Kids Leader Guide

September 24, 2025

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

Bible- Sept 24- Psalm 23:1 & John 10:1-16 God guides us.



At a Glance



The Code



Gospel Page



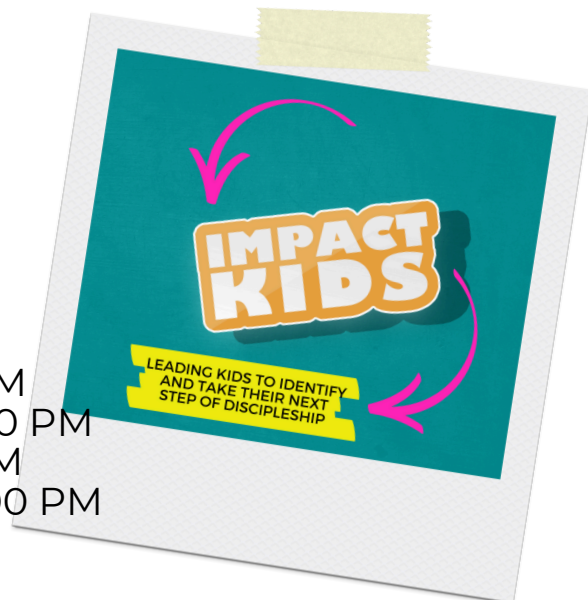
**Psalm 23
Leader Devo**

prayer challenge

Pray Psalm 23.
Read it and think about how God
has shown you his will.

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:

- dominoes (1 set for every 4 kids)
- ping-pong balls (1 for every 4 kids)
- cups (1 for every 4 kids)
- masking tape
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Tips

If possible, set up each group of four at different tables so kids don't accidentally bump the table and knock down other groups' dominoes.

Make a Domino Chain

Say: Can you use dominoes to guide a ping-pong ball into a cup? Let's give it a try!

- Form groups of four kids, and give each group a set of dominoes, a ping-pong ball, and a cup.
- Have each group tape its cup to the edge of the table, then set up a domino chain toward the cup. The end of the chain needs to push the ping-pong ball into the cup.
- If you'd like, set additional rules to make it more challenging. For example, the chain needs to have at least three curves or the ping-pong ball needs to be positioned at least 6 inches from the cup.
- Once all groups have set up their domino chains, have the kids in each group knock over the first domino at the same time. Watch to see which chains successfully land the ball in the cup.
- Play again as time allows. If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.

Talk About It

Ask: • How did your domino chain remind you of God guiding our lives?

Say: God guides us each step of the way. And each step leads us somewhere on purpose.

Ask: • What's an event in your life that led you in a specific direction?

Share an example from your own life to begin. Perhaps you started a new job and met your spouse, or you moved to a new town and that led you to your church!

Say: God guides us like a shepherd guides sheep and like dominoes guided our ping-pong balls. We can trust that his guidance will take us where he wants us to be!

Talk About Video:

Discuss and Watch “Chex’s Story”

Say: We’re learning that God is our shepherd. Just as a shepherd guides sheep, God guides us. You might not know that much about shepherds; they were a lot more common in Bible times. But I bet you’ll love the shepherd we’re about to meet.

Ask: • What did you learn about sheep or shepherding from this video?

- Theresa said that God watches over us with his eye and helps us get back in line. How did you see Chex doing something like that?
- Why do the sheep follow Chex?
- How does it help you to know that God guides you like Chex guides sheep?

Say: Sheep don’t always know where to go. They can’t follow whistle or voice commands like Chex can. But they can follow Chex’s guidance! We don’t always know where to go or what to do either, but God guides us and we can follow him.

Deeper Bible:

Supplies

- Bibles
- M&M’s candies
- napkins
- Allergy Alert Poster- M&M’s

Eat M&M’s

Give each child a small handful of M&M’s on a napkin, and tell kids to go ahead and eat their M&M’s. When they’ve finished, lead kids in this discussion.

Ask: • What’s your “right” way to eat M&M’s? Do you eat them one at a time? Eat the whole handful in one bite? Do you sort by color? Allow kids to share additional methods they have for eating M&M’s.

- Why do you eat them the way you do?
- Do you think your way is the way everyone should do it? Explain.

Say: Not everyone eats M&M’s the same way, and that’s okay. While you may have a way you prefer, it’s not necessarily better than someone else’s way. Sometimes we get the idea that God’s way is like that. It’s a way, but maybe there are other ways that are just as good. So what if we like our own way better? What if we want to do it our way instead of following God’s guidance?

Let’s dig in to that.

Dig Deeper

Give kids each another handful of M&M’s, but this time tell them not to eat the M&M’s because they’ll be using them as they explore the Bible.

Say: In order to make the most sense of what the Bible says, let’s have a specific example of God’s way that we don’t always like. For example, God guides us to obey our parents. Maybe you don’t always want to do that. Or maybe you’d rather not love your enemies.

Have kids each tell a partner something God says to do that they’d rather not do. (Or something God says not to do that they’d rather do.) If kids don’t know the Bible very well, they can choose one of your examples.

Say: Now, keep that in mind as we read some verses about God’s way versus our ways.

Deeper Bible: cont

Read Proverbs 16:1-3.

Say: These verses say that God examines our motives—the reasons we make choices—even when we think we’re making good choices. Take a minute to examine your M&M’s. Look for imperfections like an M that didn’t stamp all the way or a crack in the shell. Allow time.

Ask: • What did you find as you examined your M&M’s closer?

• What’s something God might find if he examines your heart when you don’t want to follow his way? Have kids consider the examples they thought of earlier.

Say: The fact is, sometimes our way might seem right, but we can’t see how it affects other people, or we don’t know ourselves well enough to know why we want to do it that way. God does see those things, so he guides us to his best way. When we commit to his way, we succeed!

Read Proverbs 16:25. Have kids make a path of M&M’s on their napkins.

Ask: • How did you decide how to make your path?

• How did you decide your way sounds better in the situation you thought of earlier?

Say: I didn’t give you any information about how to space your M&M’s or where your path was supposed to go. You just guessed what to do. Sometimes we can make paths in life that seem right, but they don’t lead to a good place!

God knows where the path should end, so he guides us down his perfect paths.

Let’s play a little scenario game to show you what I mean. It’s called “What If?” We’ll start with one of my examples of situations where we’d rather go our own way than God’s way.

Ask: • What if my mom told me to go to bed, and I disobeyed? Keep asking “what if” questions to drill down to potential consequences. For example, if you stayed up late, you might be tired in school the next day. If you were tired in school the next day, you might not be prepared for the test the following day. If you failed the test the following day, you might have to go to summer school to repeat that course. If you have to go to summer school, you might miss out on summer camp.

After playing a sample round of “What If?” as a group, have kids play in pairs using their own examples. Then have a few kids share where their “What If?” game ended.

Say: In that game, we got to see how each step down the path led us to a worse consequence. Our ways can lead to death, but God guides us to life.

Read Proverbs 19:21.

Say: Bottom line, we can make our own plans. We can go our own way, and we can choose not to follow our shepherd. But God’s way is best, and we’ll be taking a harder path if we go our own way. Sometimes the world thinks that as long as our choice doesn’t hurt someone else, it’s fine. But God knows what will hurt you in the long run, so God guides us to choices that won’t hurt us. And since you now know that God’s way is best...go ahead and eat the M&M’s your way!

Life Application:

Supplies

- cotton balls*

Pray With Cotton Balls

- Have each child get his or her cotton ball and hold it.
- Have kids pray silently, asking God for guidance where they feel uncertain.
- Next, have kids pray silently to commit to following God's guidance.
- Finally, have kids take turns praying aloud to thank God for being our shepherd and holding us in his hands.

Pray: God, thank you that you are a good shepherd. You will always guide us down the best paths. Help us follow your guidance. 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: Today we learned how God guides us, just like a shepherd guides his sheep. When we know Jesus' voice, we can listen to him for guidance. Let's try something.

Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Have kids form pairs. Kids will take turns closing their eyes while their partners guide them to connect the dots.

Ask: • Describe what you did to try to follow your partner's guidance.

• How does that remind you of listening for Jesus' guidance?

Say: Jesus is our shepherd, and God guides us. When we know his voice, we listen and obey him.