



David, the Singing Shepherd

1 Samuel 16:1-13;
Psalm 23

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The first king of Israel was not faithful to God. So God sent the prophet Samuel to anoint the person who would be the next king. God had chosen one of the sons of a man named Jesse, who lived in Bethlehem. Samuel looked at the seven sons of Jesse. He wondered which one God would choose to be king. But God said, "Do not think about how tall or how strong a person is. I do not look for the kinds of things people look for. I look at what is in a person's heart."

God had not chosen any of these seven sons to be king. Samuel asked Jesse, "Are these all of your sons?"

"No," answered Jesse. "The youngest boy, David, is with the sheep." David was a shepherd.

When David came in from the fields, Samuel

poured oil on David's head to anoint him as Israel's next king.

As a shepherd David took his flock of sheep to green grass. He guided them to gently flowing streams so they could get plenty of water to drink. When lions or bears tried to attack a sheep or a little lamb, David would chase them away. He took good care of the sheep.

While watching the sheep, David often made up songs and sang them to God. David loved God and used music to praise Him. We have the words of many of David's songs in the Bible. In one of his songs, David calls God a good shepherd. A good shepherd gives his life for the sheep just as Jesus gave His life for us to save us from our sins.

Praise the Lord.



Parents: Remind the children that if grown-ups are like the sheep, then little children are like little lambs. Our Good Shepherd, Jesus, gave His life to forgive and save us. Praise Jesus together by singing "I Am Jesus' Little Lamb." Talk about all the ways Jesus cares for us. Pray for a heart that faithfully follows Jesus.