The Lamb Will Be Their Shepherd

REVELATION 7:9-17 (BSB) · TEACHER GUIDE · DIGDEEPER.AI

THE BIG IDEA · SAY IT AT LEAST FIVE TIMES

Every line of Psalm 23 comes true when the Lamb shepherds his people home.

Open with it, bring it back after every section, close with it. By the end they should be able to finish the sentence for you.

- Before this passage (day 15): Luke 15:1-7, Goodness Pursues. Its big idea: God’s goodness and mercy pursue us, like a shepherd after one lost sheep.
- After this passage: —

Open

Recall last time (Luke 15:1-7): goodness and mercy pursue us like a shepherd after one lost sheep. Today: the whole psalm, from “The LORD is my shepherd” to “the house of the LORD forever.” Ask: Which line of Psalm 23 has meant the most to you in these sixteen days? Read Revelation 7:17. Big idea: Every line of Psalm 23 comes true when the Lamb shepherds his people home. Ask one person what stuck from last time.

Run Sheet

1. The Whole Psalm (Psalm 23, about 8 min)

The one thing: Psalm 23 has been fulfilled step by step in Jesus, and it ends at home.

Ask: Say the psalm together from memory. Which line would you most want to hear at the end of your life?

2. Washed White (Revelation 7:9-14, about 10 min)

The one thing: The flock is home because the Lamb’s blood made them clean; they came through the valley, not around it.

Ask: Why are the crowd’s first words about God and the Lamb, not about themselves?

3. Shepherded Home (Revelation 7:15-17, about 12 min)

The one thing: In the Lamb’s care every line of Psalm 23 comes true for good.

Ask: Match each line of Psalm 23 with a phrase in v15-17. Which match surprises you most?

Close (never cut it)

Read Revelation 7:17, then say Psalm 23 together, all six verses, from memory if you can.

PROTECT THE ENDING

If the last section starts late, read v15-17 and go to the close.

KIDS SIDE ANSWERS

Story order: 5, 1, 2, 4, 3 (top to bottom) · Feelings: The crowd praising God happy, People who came through hard times happy, Everyone when God wipes their tears happy, Us, knowing Jesus leads us home happy · Code: THE LAMB LEADS US

Act it out: The children wave paper palm branches and shout together, “Salvation to our God, and to the Lamb!” Then one child leads the others to a “spring” (a bowl of water) and everyone says Psalm 23 together.

1. The Whole Psalm

PSALM 23 · ABOUT 8 MIN · SECTION 1 OF 3

THEIR PAGE, WORD FOR WORD (ANSWERS FILLED IN)

- Verses 1-3: the Shepherd provides, leads and restores.
- Verse 4: through the valley, “You are with me.”
- Verses 5-6: the table, the cup, goodness and mercy, and the house of the LORD forever.

“The LORD is my shepherd” (Psalm 23:1). Revelation 7:17: “the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their SHEPHERD.”

“He leads me beside quiet waters” (Psalm 23:2). Revelation 7:17: “He will lead them to SPRINGS of living water.”

Discuss: Say the psalm together from memory. Which line would you most want to hear at the end of your life?

Psalm 23 has been fulfilled step by step in Jesus, and it ends at home.

MUST COVER

- Read all six verses of Psalm 23 aloud together.
- Isaiah 49:10: “lead them beside springs of water,” the verb of Psalm 23:2.

IF THERE'S TIME

- The Greek translation of Psalm 23:1 uses the same verb as Revelation 7:17, “will shepherd.”

Illustration idea: A family reading the last page of a long book they have read aloud together, and finding every thread tied.

RUNNING THE DISCUSSION

- Listen for: Every line points to Jesus.
- Listen for: The road ends at home.

If it drifts: If people start debating the timing of the end, bring it back: the scene shows who the Shepherd is and where he leads.

TRY SAYING SOMETHING LIKE

The psalm we have walked ends here, before the throne.

Short on time? Drop the Greek note. Keep the psalm read aloud.

Bridge → John sees the flock gathered home.

2. Washed White

REVELATION 7:9-14 · ABOUT 10 MIN · SECTION 2 OF 3

THEIR PAGE, WORD FOR WORD (ANSWERS FILLED IN)

- A crowd too large to count, from every nation, in white robes with palm branches.
- They cry, “Salvation to our God... and to the Lamb!”
- They have come out of the great tribulation, washed in the blood of the Lamb.

“They have washed their robes and made them WHITE in the blood of the Lamb.”

“These are the ones who have come out of the great TRIBULATION.”

Discuss: Why are the crowd’s first words about God and the Lamb, not about themselves?

The flock is home because the Lamb’s blood made them clean; they came through the valley, not around it.

MUST COVER

- v9: every nation, the “one flock” of John 10:16.
- v14: robes washed white in blood, Isaiah 1:18.

IF THERE'S TIME

- Palm branches may echo the Feast of Tabernacles (Leviticus 23:40).

Illustration idea: A stained garment that comes out of the wash spotless, though no detergent could have done it.

RUNNING THE DISCUSSION

- Listen for: Washed by the Lamb.
- Listen for: Through the tribulation, not around it.

If it drifts: If the group debates who the 144,000 are, acknowledge it is debated and return to v14.

TRY SAYING SOMETHING LIKE

They are home because the Lamb washed them.

Short on time? Drop the palm-branch note. Keep v14.

Bridge → Then the elder says what their life is now.

3. Shepherded Home

REVELATION 7:15-17 · ABOUT 12 MIN · SECTION 3 OF 3

THEIR PAGE, WORD FOR WORD (ANSWERS FILLED IN)

- They serve God day and night in his temple, and he spreads his tabernacle over them.
- No more hunger, thirst or scorching heat.
- The Lamb will be their shepherd and lead them to springs of living water; God wipes away every tear.

“Never again will they HUNGER, and never will they thirst.”

“God will wipe away every TEAR from their eyes.”

Discuss: Match each line of Psalm 23 with a phrase in v15-17. Which match surprises you most?

In the Lamb’s care every line of Psalm 23 comes true for good.

MUST COVER

- v15: “before the throne... in His temple”: the house of the LORD forever.
- v17: the Lamb is the Shepherd; Isaiah 25:8: tears wiped away.

IF THERE'S TIME

- Revelation 21:3: “the dwelling place of God is with man.”
- Revelation 22:17: “let the one who is thirsty come.”

Illustration idea: A shepherd bringing the flock into the fold at nightfall and counting every one safely in.

RUNNING THE DISCUSSION

- Listen for: Never again.
- Listen for: The Lamb is the Shepherd.

If it drifts: If the talk turns to what heaven will look like, return to v17: the point is who leads and what he does.

TRY SAYING SOMETHING LIKE

Every line of Psalm 23 comes true when the Lamb shepherds his people home.

Short on time? Drop Revelation 21:3. Keep v17.

Bridge → So say the whole psalm one last time.

With One Friend, Over Coffee

ABOUT 30 MINUTES · FOR A FRIEND WHO IS CURIOUS, OR NOT SURE

1. Start with the psalm. Ask: Which line of Psalm 23 means most to you?

2. Read Revelation. Read Revelation 7:9-17 together.

3. Match the lines. Find each line of Psalm 23 in the passage: shepherd, no want, living water, the valley, God’s house.

4. The Lamb. The Shepherd is the Lamb who was slain; his blood is why the crowd is there.

5. Leave the question. Ask the elder’s question: “Who are they?” and leave it with them.

QUESTIONS YOU MAY HEAR

“Who is the Lamb?”

Jesus, who “appeared to have been slain” yet stands at the center of the throne (Revelation 5:6).

“What is the great tribulation?”

Readers differ on the details. The plain point is that this crowd came through suffering, not around it.

“Why white robes?”

They are washed in the Lamb’s blood: his death makes them clean (Isaiah 1:18).

“What does this mean for me?”

The Shepherd of Psalm 23 is leading his people home, and the invitation is still open: “let the one who is thirsty come” (Revelation 22:17).

Evergreen Principles

Four standards every week. The rest rotate: each lesson brings the few that fit its passage best.

EVERY LESSON

1. Pray before you prepare

Teaching the Bible is spiritual work first (John 15:5).

If you're new: Pray for your class by name during the week.

If you've taught for years: Pray for the one person you find hardest to reach.

2. Study the text first

Understand the passage yourself before any help.

If you're new: Read it in two translations; write your own questions first.

If you've taught for years: Don’t lean on old notes. What did you miss last time?

3. Teach one big idea

People remember one sentence, not four points.

If you're new: Write it in 12 words or fewer before anything else.

If you've taught for years: Test every story against it. If it doesn’t serve it, cut it.

4. Point to Christ

All of Scripture points to him (Luke 24:27).

If you're new: Ask: what does this show about Jesus?

If you've taught for years: Show grace as the reason for obedience, not just the rule.

FOR THIS LESSON

1. Make it concrete

John describes clothes, branches, a throne, water.

If you're new: Bring a palm branch or a picture of one, and a glass of water.

If you've taught for years: Use v9 and v17.

2. Let the Bible do the talking

Psalm 23 and Revelation 7 explain each other.

If you're new: Read Psalm 23 and Revelation 7:15-17 back to back.

If you've taught for years: Let the class hear the echoes.

3. Let the passage land the way it lands

It is worship.

If you're new: End in praise, not in a task.

If you've taught for years: Close by saying the psalm together.

BEFORE CLASS

- ☐ Read the passage three times
- ☐ Big idea in one sentence
- ☐ Opening and close chosen
- ☐ Know what you’ll cut
- ☐ Handouts, pens, extra Bibles
- ☐ Prayed for the class by name

Openings, Closings & Hard Moments

Pick one opening and one close; rotate so class doesn't get predictable.

OPENINGS

- ask a real-life question: Which line of Psalm 23 has meant the most to you?

- use an object: Hold up a shepherd’s staff and a picture of a lamb, and ask how one person can be both.
- raise a problem: How can a Lamb be a Shepherd?

CLOSINGS

- restate the big idea: Every line of Psalm 23 comes true when the Lamb shepherds his people home.
- call back to the opening: Return to the lines people named, and find each one in Revelation 7.
- pray the text: Say Psalm 23 together as a prayer.

WHEN CLASS GETS HARD

- Someone is grieving a believer who has died.: Read v17 slowly: God himself wipes away every tear. Let them hear that this is the future of everyone who dies trusting Christ.
- Someone is unsure they belong in the crowd.: Point to v14: the crowd is there because of the Lamb’s blood, not their record, and to Revelation 22:17: whoever is thirsty may come.
- Silence after a question: Wait. Then rephrase simpler, or ask them to talk to a neighbor first.
- One person dominates: “Thanks. Let’s hear from someone who hasn’t spoken yet.” Talk privately if it continues.
- A question you can’t answer: Say so, write it down, bring an answer next week.
- A tangent takes over: “Great question. Let’s catch it after class so we can finish the passage.”

READ THIS WEEK

- Psalm 23
- Revelation 21:1-7
- Revelation 22:1-5

Free at digdeeper.ai/devotionals/revelation/7-9-17/lesson

The Lamb Will Be Their Shepherd

REVELATION 7:9-17 (BSB) · THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD · DIGDEEPER.AI

Key verse: “For the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd.” Revelation 7:17

THE BIG IDEA

Every line of Psalm 23 comes true when the Lamb shepherds his people home.

1. THE WHOLE PSALM · PSALM 23

- Verses 1-3: the Shepherd provides, leads and restores.
- Verse 4: through the valley, “You are with me.”
- Verses 5-6: the table, the cup, goodness and mercy, and the house of the LORD forever.

“The LORD is my shepherd” (Psalm 23:1). Revelation 7:17: “the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their _____.”

“He leads me beside quiet waters” (Psalm 23:2). Revelation 7:17: “He will lead them to _____ of living water.”

Discuss: Say the psalm together from memory. Which line would you most want to hear at the end of your life?

2. WASHED WHITE · REVELATION 7:9-14

- A crowd too large to count, from every nation, in white robes with palm branches.
- They cry, “Salvation to our God... and to the Lamb!”
- They have come out of the great tribulation, washed in the blood of the Lamb.

“They have washed their robes and made them _____ in the blood of the Lamb.”

“These are the ones who have come out of the great _____.”

Discuss: Why are the crowd’s first words about God and the Lamb, not about themselves?

3. SHEPHERDED HOME · REVELATION 7:15-17

- They serve God day and night in his temple, and he spreads his tabernacle over them.
- No more hunger, thirst or scorching heat.
- The Lamb will be their shepherd and lead them to springs of living water; God wipes away every tear.

“Never again will they _____, and never will they thirst.”

“God will wipe away every _____ from their eyes.”

Discuss: Match each line of Psalm 23 with a phrase in v15-17. Which match surprises you most?

Read this week: Psalm 23 · Revelation 21:1-7 · Revelation 22:1-5

For Kids: The Lamb Will Be Their Shepherd

REVELATION 7:9-17 · NAME: _____

Big idea: Jesus the Lamb is our Shepherd, leading us home.

1. PUT THE STORY IN ORDER! NUMBER THE BOXES.

☐ God wipes away every tear.

☐ John sees a huge crowd.

☐ They wear white and wave palms.

☐ The Lamb is their Shepherd.

☐ They praise God and the Lamb.

2. HOW DID THEY FEEL? CIRCLE ONE.

The crowd praising God: happy · sad · worried

People who came through hard times: happy · sad · worried

Everyone when God wipes their tears: happy · sad · worried

Us, knowing Jesus leads us home: happy · sad · worried

3. WORD SEARCH

Y W G R P A L M N
D A F U V K D S C
C T L A M B G H V
R E C W R O H E Y
O R B H V V O P U
W V S I S Y M H D
D N U T O G E E P
N N K E K D K R U
T H R O N E K D R

LAMB · SHEPHERD · CROWD · WHITE · PALM · WATER · THRONE · HOME

4. SECRET CODE

1=A 2=B 3=D 4=E 5=H 6=L 7=M 8=S 9=T 10=U

___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
9	**5**	**4**	**6**	**1**	**7**	**2**	**6**	**4**	**1**	**3**	**8**	**10**	**8**	

5. DRAW IT!

Draw a huge crowd in white around a throne, with a lamb in the middle and a river of water.

6. MEMORY VERSE

“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.” Psalm 23:1 Say it to a grown-up: ☐ ☐ ☐

Jesus the Lamb leads me to _____. _____