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## Forward

This book contains lessons from the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm that bring to life the imagery of a shepherd watching over his flock, tenderly caring for the needs of those innocent and trusting creatures. From the opening line to its very last word, the Twenty-Third Psalm, David's song of praise and prayer of affirmation, brings reassurance and confidence to all who reach out for it in times of need.

Because most children today do not have a clear idea of what shepherds do, they may not be able to fully grasp the deep meaning that can be found in the imagery of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. Thus, I have relied upon the wonderful text, *A Shepherd looks at Psalm 23*, published by Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1970, to provide much of the background research for this curriculum. It is strongly recommended that this book be purchased and read by the teacher and assistants in preparation for each week's lesson.

Getting to the heart of a shepherd's task and how it correlates to our Lord, and Chief Shepherd, can help your students come to appreciate their Savior, Jesus Christ, as the Good Shepherd of their lives.

I have designed these lessons to enable you to teach the Bible expositionally. The idea is to have the kids read the passages in their own Bibles and the teacher explain the scriptures and give good practical applications that are age-appropriate. My goal is to ensure that children learn that God's Word is exciting and meaningful and that teachers teach sound doctrine!

Even though I've scripted the lessons, I don't expect teachers to read my lesson materials verbatim to the children as they teach. My lessons are meant to provide the details you need to get background information and some suggestions for child-oriented personal application. Once you know and understand the Bible lessons for yourself, you'll be ready to teach your class.

The two-column layout of this book is designed so that you can copy and cut the pages in half to fit into your Bible. When the children

observe that you are teaching right out of the Bible, rather than from a curriculum book, it validates God's Word and gives your teaching more authority.

You will discover that there is not always a Craft or Game idea suggested in each lesson. When I've had a good idea that really seems to support the lesson objectives, I've included it. But I have another handbook called *Tips and Tricks — Making Children's Bible Lessons Come to Life* that gives lots of suggestions for activities that will help reinforce your lesson and teach the memory verse. (This is available from my website:

<https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com/>)

Use the Teaching Schedule to help you organize your teaching rotation.

I pray that you will use these lessons for God's glory by teaching the Bible as an entire plan by a systematic and connected study of the Word.

*Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. (Mark 10:14)*

*Sheila Scroggins*

Sheila has had over 35 years' experience in teaching children and has several other lesson series available. You may contact her by eMail at: [ccuv-ChildrensMinistry@usa.net](mailto:ccuv-ChildrensMinistry@usa.net) for more information.

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