

YOUNG TWIGS

Psalm 23 and Psalm 51

Year 2, lesson 17

A sheep and a sinner. David writes these psalms at two very different times in his life, but his love and respect for God never change. ▲

Observation: *what does it say?*

Read Psalm 23. Mark *God, Lord, and pronouns; all of the verbs; me/I/my.*

Read Psalm 51. Mark *God, Lord, and pronouns; sin/transgression/iniquity; offering/sacrifice.*

1. Who wrote these psalms?
2. What are some of the things the Shepherd does in Ps 23?
3. Read about when David had “gone in to Bathsheba” in 2 Sam 11–12.
What is the sin that he is asking God to cleanse him from?
4. What will David do after God restores him? (Ps 51:13–15)

Interpretation: *what does the author mean?*

5. What does this mean: “I shall not want”?
6. Sheep need green pastures and quiet waters. What do people need?

7. Why should you not fear evil?

8. In Ps 51, what are some of the things that David wants God to do for him?

9. Read these cross references for Psalm 51:11: *2 Kin 24:20, Jer 7:15, Is 63:10*. Also read 1 Sam 16:13–14. Why is David pleading with God not to take the Holy Spirit from him?

10. What does David mean when he says that God is not pleased with sacrifices and burnt offerings in Psalm 51:16–17? (1 Sam 15:22 might help you.)

Application: *therefore, what shall I do?*

11. What can you expect by having God as your shepherd? What can you expect today? In the future?

12. In Ps 51, David confessed his sin and asked for forgiveness. What sin have you committed and then asked for forgiveness? Why do we need to ask or confess since God knows everything?

13. David pleaded with God not to take the Holy Spirit from him. Do you have the Holy Spirit in you? Will God take the Holy Spirit from you if you sin? What is the purpose of the Holy Spirit in you? Read these verses to come up with your answers.
 - John 14:16–17, 25–26
 - 1 Cor 3:16
 - Gal 5:16–18
 - Eph 1:13–14 & 4:30