

Color the Word

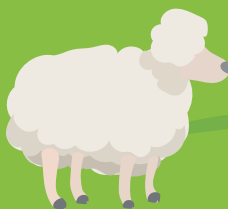
THE PSALMS SERIES

"THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD"

Psalms 23

A PSALM OF
David

TO COPY, COLOR, AND MEMORIZE!



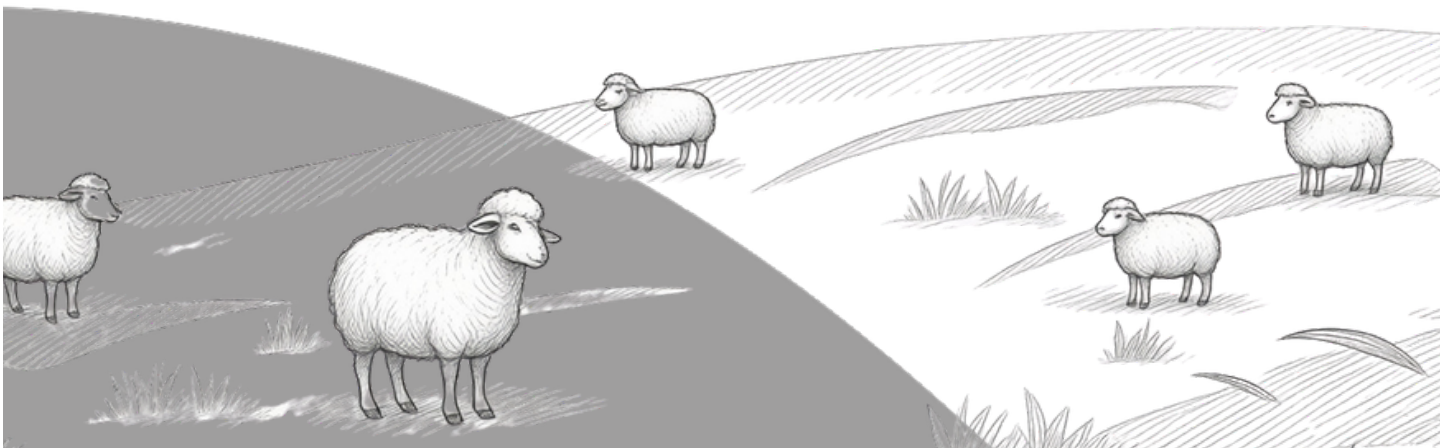
FROM THE CREATORS OF

Writing
His Word
on My Heart

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Color the Word Psalm 23
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Color the Word

THE PSALMS SERIES

What is Color the Word?

If you are familiar with our flagship book, *Writing His Word on My Heart* (formerly *Write the Word on My Heart*), many parts of this book will look similar. While the graphics have been updated slightly, we're still using handwriting, coloring, and recitation to learn one Bible verse over the course of a week. But while WHWOMH focused on learning a variety of scriptures, *Color the Word* will focus on short, whole chapters (or themes) of scripture. This book includes just 6 verses and features daily 10-minute exercises to help your child memorize one verse each week.

Day 1: READ, REPEAT, TRACE, and COPY

We recommend reading the verse aloud at least 5 times with your child, then encouraging them to try it on their own. Before they copy and trace the verse, take a moment to discuss what the verse means.

Day 2: Find the MISSING WORDS, READ, REPEAT, TRACE, and COPY

Read the verse together. Today, as you repeat the verse, try emphasizing a different word with each repetition. (You'll find examples on each "Day 2" page). Also, several words are missing today. Can they figure out which ones? Each day, a few more words will be removed. Once they fill in the missing words (feel free to help), read the verse together. Have your child repeat the verse back to you. Finish by tracing and copying the rest of the verse.

Day 3: Find more MISSING WORDS, READ, REPEAT, TRACE, and COPY

There are a few more words missing today. Let your child take the lead with today's verse. Can they recite the verse without your help? Say it together a few times, and help them spell the missing words if needed. (We want to keep this fun, and our focus isn't on spelling.) Trace and copy the verse.

Day 4: Even more missing words, trace, copy, and PONDER together

Before you begin, do they know the verse? They may. Read the verse together, asking them to add the missing words. After 4 days of copying this verse, it's a good time to PONDER. What does this verse mean to them? Use the prompt provided, or add your own. Then, finish by having your child copy and trace the verse.

Day 5: Try out the coloring page, highlight the extra verses, or just RECITE the verse

It is time to recite! Before you open the book, give your child the verse reference and have them recite it. Then, flip it around. Read the verse to your child and see if they can tell you the reference. (You can let them test you, too.) Encourage them to share with a visiting grandparent, a Sunday school teacher, or anyone who'll listen! Woot! Another verse written on their hearts! Try the extra highlighting and cursive pages if you'd like, or color the coloring page and display it.

... NOW, don't forget to RETURN to the verse often and REVIEW.

As you get further along, it will be especially helpful to recite the verses as a whole so our children can become familiar with reciting the passage as a whole rather than as individual verses.

Don't forget to check out the final pages for a few extras... ENJOY! We hope these 6-weeks in Psalm 23 will stay with them for life.

“Of this delightful song, it may be affirmed that its piety and its poetry are equal, its sweetness and its spirituality are unsurpassed.”

Charles Spurgeon,
The Treasury of David

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want...”

When I was 11, our 6th-grade Bible class received what we thought was the most dreaded assignment: memorize all of Psalm 23 and know it well enough to recite it after church. Oh, how we agonized! Six verses! We thought we'd never be able to do it.

But one month later, we had done it. We recited our verses and received our stickers and praise from the teacher. For many years, those verses were just words, lost in the deep recesses of my brain.

But when I decided to follow Jesus at 17, some of those memorized verses began to come alive in my heart. Now, more than 30 years later, every line (maybe every word!) of this Psalm has come to life at some point and been a source of comfort, of help, of correction, of peace ... over and over again.

The beauty of memorizing God's word is that once you've got it in your heart, you have a little piece of God's word with you ALL the time.

You can ponder it—anywhere. *“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.”*
...God is my shepherd? What does that mean?

You can receive correction from it: *“He makes me lie down in green pastures.”*
...Lord, are you telling me it's time to rest?

You can be taught and encouraged by it: *“He restores my soul.”*
...Lord, I believe you really can heal this hurt in my heart!

If you are literally “walking” through “the valley of the shadow of death” (or a scary or tempting situation), his word is with you, comforting you, keeping you from being scared or tempted.

Sometimes, you'll memorize something and have no idea what it means. *“You anoint my head with oil?” What? Sounds messy!* That's okay. Memorize it anyway. Keep reviewing it and store it away in your heart. Maybe one day, you'll have a question, and the Lord will answer by reminding you of one of those hidden-away verses.

I'm so glad you're trying to memorize Psalm 23. As you work through these verses, can I encourage you: don't just memorize the word, but pause. Ask the Lord what each verse means. *What does this verse tell me about God? What does it mean for me?* Sometimes it's helpful to read a chapter in several different translations to better understand it. And once you have it memorized, don't forget to return to this famous Psalm for review and keep it fresh in your heart.

May the Lord encourage you as you learn this Psalm, and may our great Shepherd continue to teach us from this Psalm, “all the days of [our] life.”

Memorizing alongside you,

Katherine

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.
He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for His name's sake.
Even though I walk through
the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
FOR YOU ARE WITH ME;
Your rod and your staff,
They comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
In the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil;
My cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life,
And I shall dwell
In the house of the Lord
Forever.

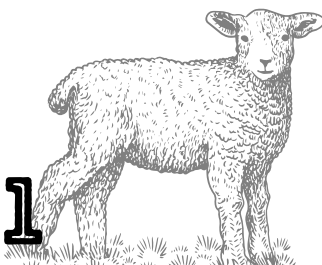
—*Psalms 23:1-6*—



The
Lord
is my
SHEPHERD

I shall not
want

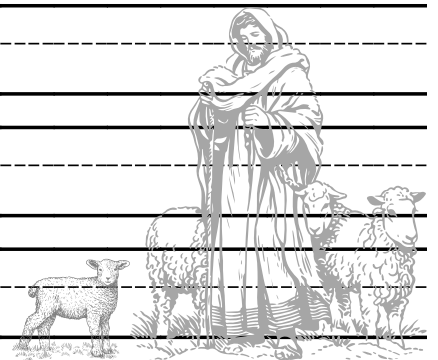
PSALM 23:1



Day 1: Repeat Psalm 23:1 5x out loud. If you want to get creative, set it to a beat or turn it into a song. Then trace and copy the verse on the lines below.

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.

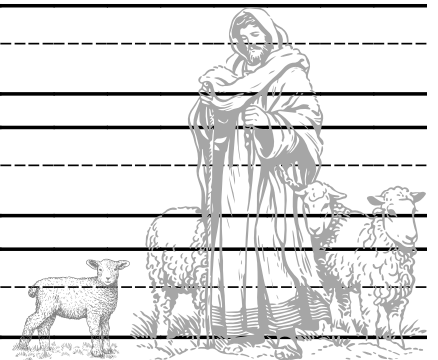
Psalm 23:1



Day 2: Repeat Psalm 23:1 aloud several times. Try emphasizing a different word each time you repeat the Psalm. For example: THE LORD is my shepherd, The Lord IS my shepherd, The Lord is MY shepherd ... and so on.

The Lord is shepherd;
I shall not

Psalm 23:1

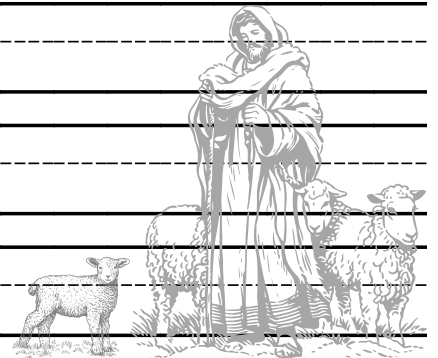


Day 3: Repeat Psalm 23:1 5x out loud. Can you remember the missing words? Fill them in, then trace and copy the verse below.

The is shepherd;
 not

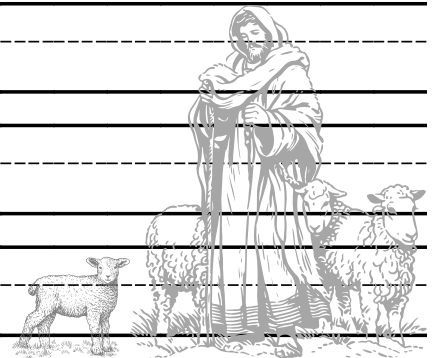
Psalm 23:1

Handwriting practice lines for copying the verse. The page contains 10 sets of three horizontal lines (top, middle dashed, bottom) for tracing and copying practice.



shepherd;

Psalm 23:



Trace the dots!

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.

Copy the lines!

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.

Color the Caps!

**THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD;
I SHALL NOT WANT.**

Highlight in Cursive!

*The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.*

PSALM 23:1