

FEAR LESS

DAY 5: WORSHIPING THE GOOD SHEPHERD

INTRODUCTION

Start with prayer, then ask...

-  **DISCUSSION QUESTION:**
If you could choose anyone—real or fiction (other than God)—to protect you, who would it be? Why?
-  **DISCUSSION QUESTION:**
What kinds of things make you feel safe and protected?
-  **READ TOGETHER:** Micah 5:2–5a and John 10:11–15

DIGGING DEEPER

-  **DISCUSSION QUESTION:**
How does this passage describe Jesus as our shepherd?
-  **DISCUSSION QUESTION:**
How does the strength of the shepherd make the sheep feel at peace?

Do you remember the story of David and Goliath? It is the story about the teenager who fought the giant with just his slingshot and five smooth stones. David said he wasn't afraid of Goliath because when he was watching his father's sheep, he had killed a lion and bear with only his slingshot and the strength of the Lord (1 Samuel 17:34–37). In this passage Micah described the Messiah (Jesus) as a shepherd who would shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord.

We like to think of God's protection as a invisible force field that keeps us from all harm. We assume God a superhero who flies in and rescues us from danger.

But the reality is that sometimes God allows us to go through bad things. This is not because He isn't strong enough to fix them or because He doesn't love us. Rather, He is developing us, and we are learning something through it. Sometimes bad things happen just because the world is a sinful place, But God can still use trials to develop our hope and perseverance.

All kinds of bad things happen all over the world every day. This virus we are dealing with right now is one, but every day, on just a regular day, about 25,000 people around the world die from hunger. There are hurricanes and floods and earthquakes. There are people who get cancer, people who don't have a home to live in. Until we get to heaven, there will always be bad things that happen.

This verse in Micah describes a really scary thing that was about to happen to Israel. They were about to be attacked by a terrible, evil army. Micah said Messiah would protect them—but not in the way they expected. He wouldn't stop the evil army from attacking them, but He would give them peace through the attack. This is a hard thing to understand, even for grown-ups.

Sometimes God doesn't take away our physical pain or suffering. But He is always our peace through it. Micah describes the Shepherd as strong and mighty, but when Jesus talks about Himself being the Good Shepherd, He says that His greatest act of strength was laying down His life for us. Like a good shepherd, He protected us by giving up His own life.

 **READ TOGETHER (again):** John 10:11

APPLY IT TO LIFE

Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins. God may not always physically protect us from all the bad things that happen in this world. But He protects us eternally by saving us from our sins and giving us eternal life. Someday we will be with Him in heaven where there will be no pain, no suffering, no sorrow, no death, and He will wipe every tear from our eyes. The Bible says that when we look around and wonder why bad things happen, we need to remember that our hope is not in this world, it is in heaven.

PARENT STORY:

Tell the story of how you came to know Jesus. Share why you put your hope in eternal life with Him in heaven instead of in this world.

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

Do the *Paper Airplane Gospel* together. For more complete instructions, follow this link: <https://bit.ly/PaperAirplaneGospel>

Fold sheets of paper into an airplane and let the kids fly them. Ask them where they would want to go on an airplane and why. Then say that you know a place that is better than anywhere they could get to by flying. Let them guess where it is. Describe heaven to them. Then ask them if they want to know how to get there. Take the airplane and cut it along the dotted line in the picture below. Then unfold it to reveal a cross. Because God loved us so much and wanted us to be with

Him in heaven, He sent His son Jesus to die on the cross for us. If we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we can live forever with Him in heaven.

You may also want to watch a video from The Gospel Project for Kids, “The Big Story” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=urwZP2WGdHc>



PRAY TOGETHER:

Dear Jesus, thank you for protecting us from sin forever by dying on the cross for us. I can't wait to be with you in heaven. When things in this world are dark and scary, I will put my hope in your kingdom in heaven..



MEMORIZE TOGETHER:

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” – John 3:16