
SAMMY AND HIS SHEPHERD
SEEING JESUS IN PSALM 23
Susan Hunt
Illustrated by Cory Godbey

"Susan Hunt leads children through Psalm 23, one verse at a time, looking in detail at a shepherd's care through the eyes of his sheep. *Sammy and His Shepherd* explains important doctrines in simple and concise terms *and* points out how those doctrines about our Shepherd should impact the everyday lives of His sheep. This is a visually attractive book that sets forth the beauty of our Lord."

—Starr Meade
Author, *Keeping Holiday* and *Training Hearts, Teaching Minds*

"*Sammy and His Shepherd* is a delightful book for children. Written as an imaginative story narrated by a young lamb, this book does a skillful exposition of Psalm 23. It even includes some great talking points for each chapter. Susan Hunt's skills as a writer and rich theological insights are beautifully crafted into this story. Here is a book children will grow into and never outgrow."

—Tedd Tripp
Pastor, conference speaker, and author, *Shepherding a Child's Heart*

"I gave Susan Hunt's latest book the real test: I began reading it out loud to my rambunctious five-year-old. He was immediately charmed by her storytelling ability and would not let me stop. *Sammy and His Shepherd* combines rich, theologically informed understanding with sanctified creativity to reveal the green pastures of God's sovereign grace in all its loveliness."

—Douglas Bond
Author, Crown & Covenant series and Faith & Freedom trilogy

"In this lovely book on the best-loved psalm, Susan Hunt engages the attention in a delightful way. I would encourage families to use this book and take advantage of the clear teaching, which points to the Good Shepherd who loves children and demonstrated that love so gloriously at Calvary."

—Carine Mackenzie
Author, Bible Time series and Bible Wise series

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LIGONIER MINISTRIES

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DEDICATION

To my mother,
Mary Kathryn McLaurin,
in celebration of her 90th birthday
and with gratitude that she tells her children,
grandchildren, and great-grandchildren
about her Shepherd.

❄

"We your people, the sheep of your pasture,
will give thanks to you forever;
from generation to generation we
will recount your praise."
Psalm 79:13

PREFACE

Dear lovers of children:

Thank you for loving children enough to read to them. The coziness of sitting together with a good book and the familiarity of hearing your voice read and reread a favorite story create treasured memories. When the book points a child to the Savior, the experience is eternally significant.

Psalm 23 is a celebration of the comprehensiveness of salvation by grace. Helping a child memorize this beloved psalm bestows a treasure that cannot be taken away. Read it each time you read the story and soon the child will join in. Talking about the story and praying together will expand his or her understanding. (Discussion questions and activities for each chapter can be found beginning on page 44.)

My husband and I have twelve grandchildren. Sometimes I ponder the question: If I could give them only one portion of Scripture, what would it be? I could never select just one, but Psalm 23 is surely on the short list. My prayer is that this little book will help children—and those who read to them—to delight in the knowledge that Jesus is the Good Shepherd, that we are saved and kept by grace, and that we are privileged to live as a part of the flock of God's people.

For the glory of the Shepherd who became the Lamb who is the King.

—Susan Hunt
Marietta, Georgia
July 2008

PSALM 23

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.





CHAPTER ONE

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD; I SHALL NOT WANT

I'm such a happy sheep," Sammy thought as he grazed contentedly in the lush pasture.

He looked up and noticed a sheep in the next pasture looking longingly through the fence. He also noticed that the other pasture was not as nice as his.

"I never noticed how many rocks and how little grass are in that pasture," he thought.

Sammy ambled toward the fence. "Hi," he called to the other sheep. "What's your name?"

"I don't have a name," the sheep said.

Sammy tried not to appear shocked, but he couldn't imagine a sheep not having a name. Then he noticed that the sheep was very skinny and that flies were buzzing around her head.

The little sheep asked, "Do you have a name?"

"My name is Samuel, but everyone calls me Sammy."

"Where did you get your name?"

"My shepherd named me soon after he bought me. He names all of his sheep."

"Why does he do that?" the sheep asked as she shook her head to try to make the flies go away.

"Well, I guess because he loves each one of us and he knows us by name. Samuel means 'heard by God.' I was wounded and sick when my shepherd bought me, and he prayed for me. He named me Samuel so that I would always remember that God heard his prayer."

"You sure seem happy," the little sheep said.

"Of course I'm happy. I have the best shepherd in the whole world. I know that I will never want for anything."

"How can you know that?"

"Because my shepherd loves me and he always takes care of me," Sammy answered.

"I don't understand," the little sheep said. "Look at this pasture. There's never enough grass to eat. I'm always hungry. And our water isn't very good either."

"I'm sorry you're hungry," Sammy replied. "I always have enough food and water because my shepherd provides everything I need."

"Do you mean that you never have to walk through scary valleys or climb high hills to get to different pastures?"

"Oh, no, I don't mean that I never have to go to hard places. But my shepherd is always with me and he helps me go through those hard places."

"But what about the enemies waiting to attack you?" the little sheep asked.

"My shepherd always guards me, no matter how dangerous it is. He would even lay down his life to protect me."

"I wish I had a shepherd I could trust," the little sheep moaned.

Talking to the little sheep made Sammy grateful for his shepherd. He also felt sad for the scrawny sheep and wanted to show kindness to her, but he didn't know what to do. Then he had an idea.

"Can we be friends?" Sammy asked. He noticed that the little sheep's eyes brightened, so he continued, "Since you don't have a name, I'm going to call you 'My Friend.'"

The little sheep seemed to stand a bit taller and she certainly looked happier. "I like that," she said. "I'll see you tomorrow."

"Same time, same fence," Sammy laughed.



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