

Name: Mrs. Suzanne Wierenga
Email: wierenga@cvc.org
School: Central Valley Christian School
Grade Level: 5th

Theme/Lesson: Psalms- Jesus the Good Shepherd
We can trust in Jesus and his loving care in every circumstance

Your objectives in this lesson:

- a.) Students will understand that Jesus is their good shepherd and they can trust in his care.
- b.) Students will be encouraged to stay close to Jesus and come to Him with their struggles and problems.

Materials needed: Bible (Psalm 23). If possible get the book written by Philip Keller [A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23](#). This lesson is a paraphrase of a chapter in his book. Show the students a small flask of anointing oil if you would like. Explain that in the Bible, God's people are often compared to sheep. Explain what anointing is. Mention that anointing oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit in the Bible.

During certain seasons of the year, sheep are bothered by flies that lay their eggs in the moist parts of a sheep's nose. When the fly eggs hatch it causes the sheep extreme pain and discomfort. Sometimes the sheep even beat their heads against a tree or rock to relieve the pain. In certain cases, the sheep even die. The problem is avoided when the shepherd takes the time to anoint the head of each of his sheep using oil mixed with herbs. The oil is soothing and keeps the flies away. As a result, the sheep are able to rest peacefully once again.

Often, this is a picture of our lives. Sometimes we get "bugged" about things. We become irritated and feel like we are beating our heads against the wall. We may feel that the problems we can't work out are like bugs up our noses. Like the sheep, we must go to our good shepherd. He is the only one who can bring rest and peace in these situations. As we come to Jesus, He anoints us with the oil of his spirit and allows us to trust him with those things that irritate and annoy us. In His presence, we are reminded that He is in control of our lives and we can trust in his loving care.