

been to me. It took me away from a career of folly. It brought me to myself and to this room of trial, where I have found Christ. I think it has brought me a great way on the road to heaven." It was the testimony of a Christian who had lost his eye-sight after a long confinement to a dark room, "I could never see Jesus till I became blind."—*Dr. T. L. Cuyler.*

If "the valley of the shadow of death" means this world, we have a Bible full of promises, saying, "I will be with thee."

Let me lay my head on the bosom of Jesus and I fear not the distraction of care and trouble. Come on, foes, persecutors, fiends, "the Lord God is my sun and shield." Gather, ye clouds, and surround me; I carry a sun within. Blow, wind of the frozen north, I have a fire of living coal within. Yea, Death, slay me; I have another life "hid with Christ in God."—*Spurgeon.*

The Teachers' Meeting.

This psalm contains a succession of the most beautiful word-pictures presented to the student of the Bible. That they are familiar does not at all detract from their force, for they are of such perennial freshness and such winsome beauty that they present unusual opportunity for elaboration.... A good outline is (1) The Good Shepherd; (2) His provision for the sheep; (3) His superiority to all our foes; (4) Victory over enemies.... Or, as suggested by the *Illustrative Notes*, apply at once to the Christian's life. (1) The life of trust; (2) The life of contemplation; (3) The life of activity; (4) The life of trial; (5) The life of enjoyment; (6) The life of worship.... Another excellent method: Explain every "Orientalism," and without any other outline show how every pictured detail in the psalm is an emblem of a deep spiritual experience. This may be made very effective with young children.

References.

FREEMAN. Ver. 4: The shepherd's staff, 256. Ver. 5: Anointing guests, 429... FOSTER'S CYCLOPEDIA. VRS. 1-6: Prose, 4803, 9316, 1304. Ver. 2: Prose, 9771, 3851. Ver. 4: Prose, 345, 7209, 7788, 8224, 8704. Ver. 5: Prose, 5667, 7683. Ver. 6: Prose, 4742, 7254, 8789; Poetical, 956.

Primary and Intermediate.

LESSON THOUGHT. *The Shepherd's Care.*

What is the subject of our lesson to-day? In what part of the Bible do we find it? Who will tell the number of the psalm? Who will come and find it in the Bible?

[Class recite the psalm in concert, or responsively.]

Who wrote this psalm? Yes, King David. When David was a boy he tended sheep. Every day he led them out to pasture. He took them where the grass was green and tender, and where they could lie down beside the cool waters when they were hot and thirsty. If one of them was sick or troubled, David knew it, and was ready to help. If one wandered away, he hurried to find it. He knew all the sheep by name, and loved them all. And they knew their kind shepherd, and loved him, too. If a stranger came and tried to lead them away, they would not go with him. They loved their shepherd so much that they wanted to stay near him all the time.



[Make a shepherd's crook on the board as you talk, and a crown.] But why do we make a crown here? Yes, because David became a king. He did not write this psalm when he was a shepherd boy, but after he became a king.

Does a king need some one to take care of him? O, yes. A king has great power, but there are some things he cannot control. Can you think of any thing that will not be ruled by a mighty king? Yes, sickness is one thing, death is another, and danger is another. All these came even to so great and good a king as David, and he could not make them obey him. David needed some one to take care of him as he once took care of his sheep. And he knew that no one but the Lord could do this.

[Recall some of the striking events in David's life, where he had been saved from his enemies.]

Perhaps he had been thinking of some of these very things, and remembering how the Lord had cared for him, when the song came into his heart, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."

David said this. Can we say it? Once a little boy said, "But the Lord is away up in heaven. How can he come down and take care of me?"

[Recall the Easter lesson—Jesus coming from earth to heaven to help us all along the way; Jesus dying for our sins, and rising from the dead to live forever. This same Jesus says here, in the Bible, "Lo, I am with you always." Then he is with us to take care of us.]

[Print "The Lord is my Shepherd." What do we sometimes call Jesus? "The Good Shepherd." Read passages from the New Testament in which he speaks of himself as the Shepherd.]

What did David say his Shepherd did for him? Yes; he led him and fed him. Let us all sing,

"Saviour, like a shepherd lead us."

Do you think the shepherd took care of the lambs? O, yes. Sometimes a foolish little lamb would stray from the flock. Then the shepherd would go to search for it and bring it back. Just so