



CENTENARY  
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4TH/5TH GRADE

CHRIST

OTHERS

SECOND



FIRST

**Memory Verse for the 4th/5th Grade: Psalm 23:1–6**

## Week 1: What is I AM 3RD?

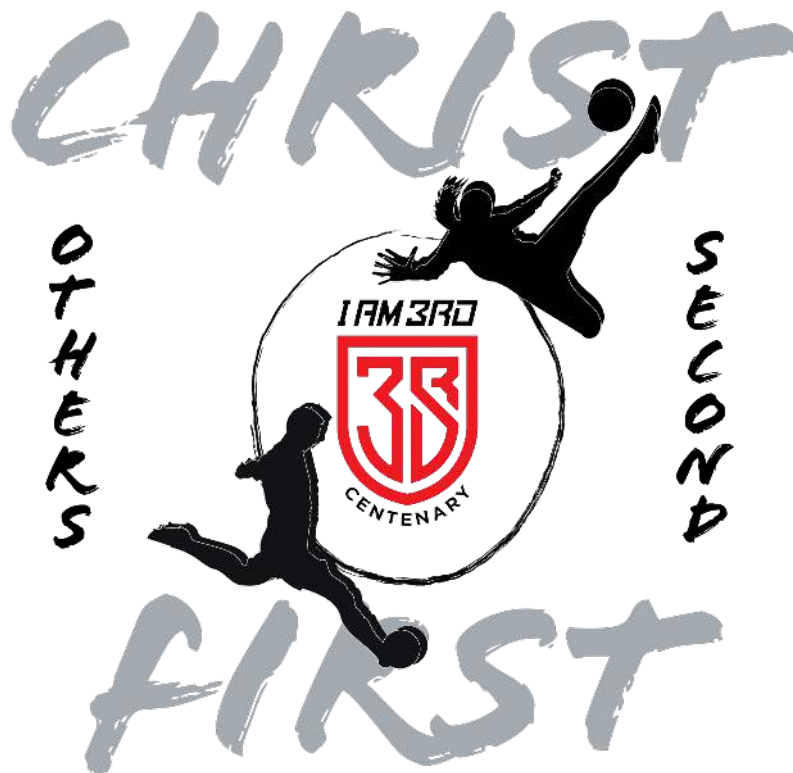
I AM 3RD is based on a simple belief that Jesus Christ is first, others are second, and I am third.

We strongly believe that Jesus Christ is the most important person in our lives. (Matthew 25:40)

Doing our best in everything: We want to work at everything with all our heart, as if we are working for the Lord. (Colossians 3:23-24)

Studying Scripture: We believe all Scripture is God-breathed (from God) and is useful for teaching, correcting, and training in goodness, so that through studying Scripture we may be equipped (ready) for every good work.

It is our prayer that we would gain a deeper understanding of what it means to follow Christ through our weekly devotions and times of prayer, in order to help us learn more about Jesus Christ and His importance in our lives. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)



## Week 2: “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.”

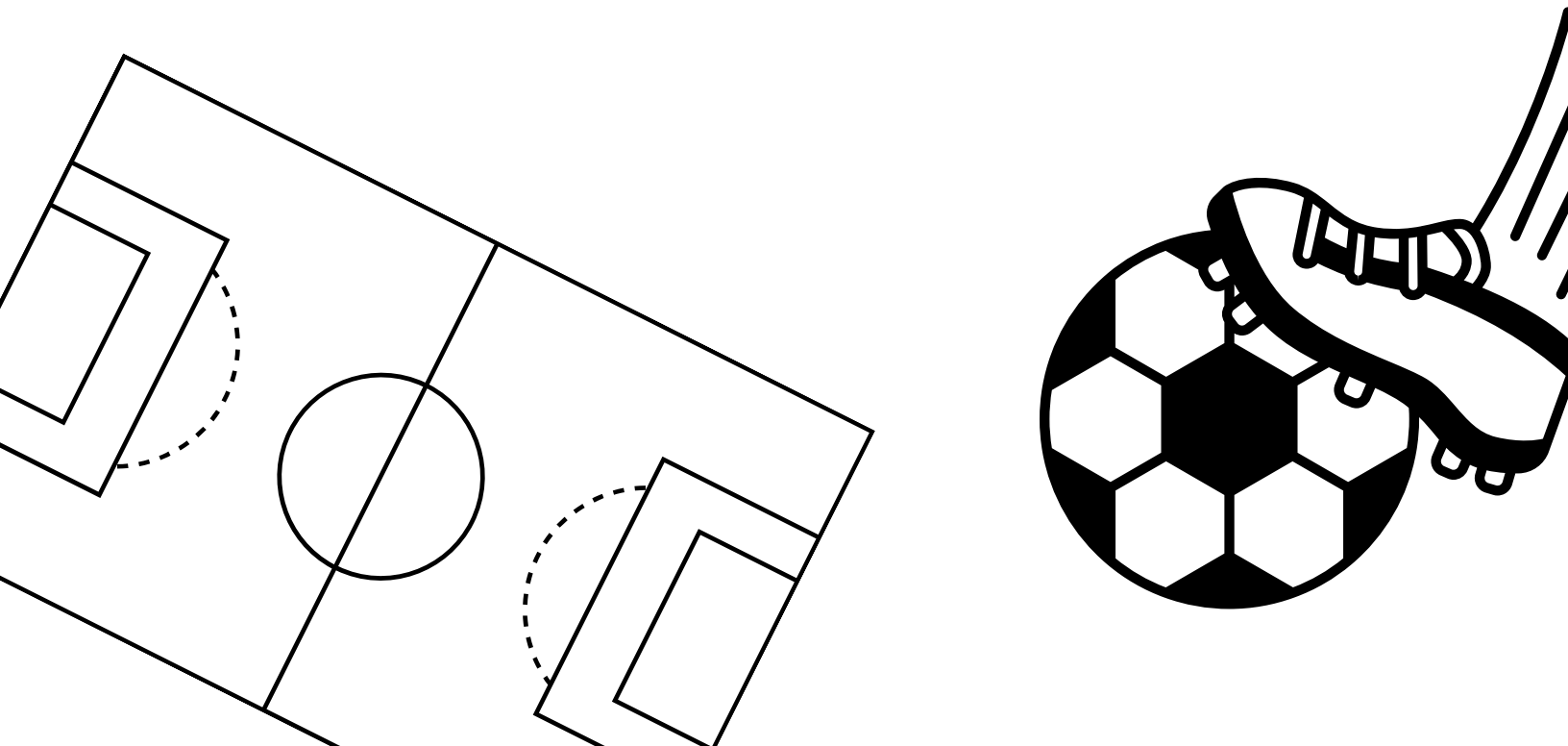
This soccer season we will be memorizing Psalm 23. This is one of the most famous Psalms; you may already know it in part! One reason why Psalm 23 is so famous is because it is applicable to so many situations. People may recite it when they are at peace, or when they are afraid or sad. It seems to always have something to say to any situation. Psalm 23 builds its beautiful poetry off the metaphor of a shepherd. The first line tells us that God is like a shepherd to us. When the Lord is our shepherd, He takes good care of us and provides for our needs.

### Questions:

What does the image of a Shepherd bring to mind? Why is this a good description of God’s relationship with His people?

### Memory Verse:

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





Week 3: “He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters...”

If God is like our shepherd, that makes us like sheep. Sheep need food and water to survive, just like us. In this part of the poem, the shepherd leads his sheep to green pastures, and still waters where the sheep have plenty to eat and drink. For most of us, we don't think about God providing our food. We may think about buying it from the grocery store or going out to a restaurant. But God set the world into motion and created all of the plants and animals we eat. That is why we give thanks to God in prayer before we eat. We know He is the creator of all good things and provides our food and water.

Questions:

How can you thank God for how He has provided for you? How can we help others who don't have enough food or water?

Memory Verse:

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
He leads me beside still waters...”



### Week 4: “...he restores my soul.”

Last week we talked about how God provides for the needs of His flock such as food and water. This week we will learn that God provides for us in our need for rest. In caring for his flock during a long journey, sometimes the shepherd's sheep may go without enough food and water for a long time. When they arrive at their destination, the sheep not only need food and water, but they also need to rest. Sometimes we think of God as someone who always wants us to do more. When we serve others, read our Bible and pray out of our love for God, He is pleased. If we do these things out of fear that God won't love us unless we do more, this only causes us anxiety. We can lose sight of the fact that God is our shepherd who wants to care for us and give us rest. There is no amount of work that we can do to change how much God loves us. There is nothing we can do to make God love us more or less. We can rest in the knowledge that God is a good shepherd who wants to restore our soul.

### Questions:

How does it make you feel to know that God wants to give you rest and peace? What would it look like for God to give you rest?

### Memory Verse:

“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”

## Week 5: “He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake.”

The psalmist trusts God to lead him in the right direction. Sheep do not need to worry about where they are going when their shepherd is with them. They trust the shepherd to lead them where they need to go and provide what they need. In the same way we should trust God to lead us on the right path. Even when we are young, it can be stressful to think about our journey in life. Where will we end up?

What will we do? These are big questions that can cause us to be anxious. We do not need to be afraid. We can trust that God will direct us if we are attentive to His voice and His lead just like a sheep with a shepherd.

### Questions:

Have you ever felt God lead you to do something?

### Memory Verse:

“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 right paths for his name’s sake.”





Week 6: “Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—  
they comfort me.”

Even when we trust God to lead us, sometimes there are seasons in life that are just hard. The psalmist recognizes this and refers to these difficult seasons as “the darkest valley.” In these seasons we can find comfort in knowing that God is still with us. God never leaves our side. Even in dark times when He feels distant we can trust Him to lead us back to the place of safety and rest. It is a beautiful thing that God acknowledges that some seasons in life are really difficult. We don’t need pretend everything is okay, God is with us and knows our situations.

Questions:

Has God ever led you through a difficult time? How does it feel to know God is with you even in dark seasons?

Memory Verse:

“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 right paths for his name’s sake.  
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—  
they comfort me.”



Week 7: “You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.”

In this verse, the metaphor shifts from God being our shepherd to God welcoming us into His house and to His dinner table. Have you ever been over to a friend's house and they make you feel right at home? Maybe they have all the best snacks or the coolest things or you just really feel at home with that person and their family. The writer says that God prepares a table for us in his home and welcomes us like an honored guest. Even when we feel afraid or like there are people against us, we are welcomed into God’s house. He will take good care of us.

Questions:

Do you think of yourself as God’s honored guest? How does that make you feel?

Memory Verse:

“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 right paths for his name’s sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I 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.”



Week 8: “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
my whole life long.”

When we dwell in the house of the Lord goodness and mercy will follow us. The psalmist does something really beautiful in the writing here. Last week, we talked about the Lord preparing a table for us, even while being followed by enemies. Now we are being followed by goodness and mercy. While people may turn their back on us, we can always rely on God to show us the same character. He is merciful and loving and welcomes us into His home. Even when we are in difficult seasons and it feels like only bad things are following us, we can remember that goodness and mercy are heading our way.

Questions:

What do you think it means for goodness and mercy to follow you?

Memory Verse:

“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 right paths for his name’s sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I 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 my whole life long.”

**Great work! You have memorized the whole passage for this soccer season!**



## Week 9: Summary

This soccer season we have been memorizing Psalm 23. Altogether the message of this chapter is that God is always with us. When life is awesome and we have everything we need, God is with us. When life is difficult and it feels like we are in a dark valley, God is with us there too. God loves to redeem bad situations, whether it be setting the Hebrews free from slavery in Egypt or raising Jesus from the dead. When things seem at their worst God is working to make things right. Our hope is that memorizing this Psalm will help you remember this important truth. When life is good and when life is hard, remember God is always with you!

### Questions:

Do you know another Bible story where God took a bad situation and made things right? Has God ever helped you or your family through a tough time?

### Memory Verse:

“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 right paths for his name’s sake.  
Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I 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 my whole life long.”



## Week 10: Season Reflection and Review

What will you take away from the devotional time this season? What are some memories you made?





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