

Protection — Day 1



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#81) — KJV

Psalm 23:1–6 "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."

💖 Apply the Promise!

Because Jesus is our Good Shepherd, we do not have to be afraid. He provides what we need, comforts us in dark valleys, and safely guides His children toward His eternal home.

📖 Bible Story (Psalm 23 & John 10)

Sheep are gentle animals, but they are not very good at protecting themselves. They can wander away, get stuck in dangerous places, or become frightened when enemies come near. Without a shepherd, sheep are weak and helpless.

A good shepherd knows every part of his flock's life. He leads the sheep to safe pasture, brings them to clean water, watches for danger, and searches for any sheep that wanders away. The sheep may not understand every path, but they are safe when they stay close to the shepherd.

David understood this because he had cared for sheep himself. He knew how much patience, courage, and love a shepherd needed. He had led sheep through lonely fields and protected them from lions and bears.

Later, David thought about the way God had cared for him. He wrote, "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want." David was saying, "God knows what I need. He leads me, feeds me, restores me, and stays with me even in dark valleys."

Jesus later called Himself the Good Shepherd. He said, "I know my sheep," and "I give unto them eternal life." Jesus does not run away when danger comes. He gave His own life to save His sheep.

This story teaches us that we are like sheep who need a Shepherd. When we feel afraid, confused, weak, or lost, we can stay close to Jesus. He knows our names, hears our cries, protects us from evil, and leads us safely toward His eternal home.

☀️ True Story

In April 2014, a boy named Willie Myrick was outside his home near Atlanta, Georgia, when a stranger grabbed him and forced him into a car. Willie was only ten years old, and he was terrified.

The man drove away with Willie trapped inside. Willie did not know where he was going or what would happen next. He later said he thought the man might hurt him badly.

But Willie remembered God. Instead of becoming silent with fear, he began to sing a gospel song he had learned at church: "Every Praise." The man told him to stop, but Willie kept singing.

He sang the song about God's protection over and over again. He kept singing for three straight hours as the car drove around the city. The worship music fully filled the car, and the kidnapper became agitated. The man repeatedly yelled at Willie to be quiet, but Willie refused to stop singing.

Finally, the kidnapper could not take the worship music anymore. He abruptly pulled the car over to the side of the road, opened the door, and told Willie to get out.

Willie ran to safety and was reunited with his family. Later, he said, "If you praise the Lord, He will help you in mysterious ways."

Willie's story shows that the Good Shepherd can be with His children even in frightening places. We may still feel afraid, but we do not have to be alone. Jesus can give courage, peace, and help at exactly the right time.

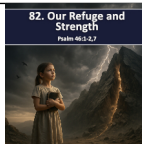
💬 Discussion Questions:

- What dangers did David protect his sheep from?
- What was the young boy doing in the back of the car for three straight hours?
- David used his rod and staff to protect his sheep. What is one specific, scary thing you need Jesus to protect you from today?

🎬 Activity:

Show how God reaches down to protect and save us! Drop a cotton ball (the "lost sheep") into the bottom of a tall, narrow cup or vase. Have the kids try to rescue it using just their fingers—it is impossible to reach! Now, give them a pipe cleaner bent at the end like a shepherd's staff. They can easily hook the sheep and pull it to safety. Talk about how God's staff protects us when we are trapped.

Protection — Day 2



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#82) — KJV

Psalm 46:1–2, 7 "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; ... The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah."

💖 Apply the Promise!

God is our safe hiding place and our strong protector! Even if the whole world feels like it is falling apart, we never have to fear because God is always right beside us.

📖 Bible Story (2 Kings 6)

The king of Syria was angry with Elisha, God's prophet. Again and again, God had helped Elisha know the enemy's plans, and the Syrian king wanted to capture him.

One night, the king sent a great army with horses and chariots to the city where Elisha was staying. While everyone slept, the soldiers surrounded the city. To human eyes, there was no way out. Early the next morning, Elisha's servant went outside and froze with fear. Everywhere he looked, he saw enemy soldiers. He ran back to Elisha and cried out, wondering what they could possibly do.

But Elisha was not afraid. He knew that the danger they could see was not the whole story. Elisha could not see an earthly escape, but he trusted the God who never runs out of ways to protect His people. God's protecting power was much greater than the army surrounding them.

Elisha prayed, and God opened the servant's eyes. Suddenly, the young man saw the mountain full of horses and chariots of fire. The enemy army had surrounded the city, but God's army had surrounded the enemy. Heaven's army had been there all along, even when he could not see it.

The servant's fear changed when he saw that God was already at work. This story teaches us that God's protection is greater than the danger in front of us. We may not always see how God is helping, but we can trust that He is never helpless, never surprised, and never far away. When we feel surrounded, afraid, or trapped, we can remember that the God of heaven's armies is near His children.

☀️ True Story

In the 1950s, a missionary school called Rift Valley Academy sat on the edge of a forest in Kijabe, Kenya. During this time, a violent group of rebels known as the Mau Mau was attacking villages and causing terror all across the country.

One night, the school received a warning that a army of Mau Mau warriors was marching out of the forest to attack the sleeping children. The teachers had no weapons, no heavy iron gates, and no way to defend the campus from an attack.

With no earthly protection available, the teachers and students immediately dropped to their knees. They knew God was their refuge and strength, so they prayed fervently for Him to be a very present help in their terrifying trouble.

They stayed awake all night, trusting God to protect them. Amazingly, the attack never happened. The sun safely rose the next morning, and the school was left untouched.

Several months later, the leader of the rebel army was finally captured. The police asked him why his warriors had ignored the defenseless missionary school that night. The rebel leader was visibly shaken by the question.

He explained that his men had marched to the edge of the campus, prepared to attack. But when they looked at the school, they saw an army of giant men dressed in glowing white robes surrounding the entire property! The rebels were so terrified by the glowing guards that they dropped their weapons and fled into the jungle.

When danger is too great for us, God is still able to guard, help, and protect in ways we may not even see.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- What did God allow the servant to see after Elisha prayed?
- What did the rebel leader see surrounding the school that scared his army away?
- Elisha prayed for his servant not to be afraid. Who is someone you know right now that really needs you to pray for their protection and peace?

🎬 Activity:

Show exactly what a "refuge" is! Crumple up a dry paper towel and wedge it tightly into the bottom of a clear plastic cup. Turn the cup completely upside down and push it straight down into a deep bowl of water until it is fully submerged. When you pull the cup straight back out, the paper towel is perfectly dry! Talk about how God acts as a protective bubble (a refuge) around us, keeping the scary "floods" away.

Protection — Day 3



83. I Will Say of The Lord
Psalm 91:1-5, 7-8

🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#83) — KJV

Psalm 91:1, 2, 5, 7–8 "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. ... Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; ... A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked."

💖 Apply the Promise!

When we make God our hiding place, we do not have to fear the dangers around us. Even in serious trouble, His powerful care can cover and protect His children.

📖 Bible Story (Exodus 12)

For hundreds of years, the Israelites were trapped as slaves in the land of Egypt. Pharaoh refused to let God's people go free. Because Pharaoh was so stubborn and cruel, God sent nine terrible plagues upon the land, but he still refused to listen.

Finally, God announced that a tenth plague was coming. At midnight, an angel of death would pass through the entire nation of Egypt. To protect His people from this terrible destruction, God gave Moses a specific, life-saving instruction.

Every single Israelite family was told to sacrifice a perfect, spotless lamb. They were commanded to take the blood of that lamb and carefully paint it on the wooden doorframes of their houses. Once the blood was applied, the families had to go inside, shut the heavy doors, and stay hidden.

That night, the Israelites gathered their families and waited in the dark. They could hear heartbreaking cries echoing all across the nation as the plague struck the Egyptians.

But the Israelites were perfectly safe. When the destroying angel saw the blood of the lamb painted on the doorframes, he safely passed over their houses.

The blood acted as an invisible shield. Even though a disaster was falling all around them, the destruction did not come near the Israelites. The very next morning, the protected Israelites marched out of Egypt to begin their journey toward freedom!

This story teaches us that God Himself is our safest shelter. When we listen to His voice and stay close to Him, we are under a protection stronger than anything this world can give.

☀️ True Story

In the early 1940s during World War II, a faithful Christian named Franz Hasel was drafted into the German army. Because he loved God and wanted to follow the Bible, Franz refused to carry a real weapon or shoot at anyone.

While his unit was marching near a lake, Franz quietly slipped his real pistol out of its leather holster and secretly threw it right into the water. He carved a fake wooden gun, painted it black, and slid it into his empty holster so the Nazi officers wouldn't notice.

His commanders were furious at his strong faith and placed him right on the most dangerous front lines. Franz was assigned to Pioneer Company 699, a unit forced to build wooden bridges deep inside Russia ahead of the main army.

They were constantly targeted by enemy snipers, artillery shells, and violent bombing raids. Franz didn't have a real gun to defend himself, but he carried a tiny Bible in his pocket. He prayed every single day, fully trusting God to protect him from the bullets and exploding bombs.

By the end of the war, out of the 1,200 men who originally marched into Russia in his specific unit, Franz was one of only seven men who survived. God acted as an invisible shield, perfectly protecting His unarmed child through the deadliest war in history!

Franz's story shows that God can protect His children in ways we may not fully understand. Our safety is not in lucky objects or human strength, but in the God who sees every danger and knows how to cover His people.

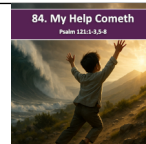
💬 Discussion Questions:

- What did the Israelites paint on their wooden doorframes to stay safe from the plague?
- What kind of fake weapon did Franz secretly carve and carry in his holster?
- God protected the Israelites when they stayed inside their houses. Where is the safest, most peaceful place you go when you want to feel protected?

🎬 Activity:

Demonstrate Psalm 91:5! Fill a plastic Ziploc bag all the way to the top with water and seal it tight. Tell the kids the bag is us, and sharp pencils represent the "arrows that fly by day." Boldly stab a sharp pencil completely through the bag! Miraculously, the plastic seals tightly around the pencil and not a single drop of water leaks out. Talk about how God's protective shield keeps us completely safe even when sharp, scary trials hit us.

Protection — Day 4



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#84) — KJV

Psalm 121:1–3, 5–8 "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth... He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore."

💖 Apply the Promise!

Whenever you travel or feel alone, remember that God is your personal bodyguard! He never falls asleep, and He watches over your life everywhere you go.

📖 Bible Story (Ezra 8)

Ezra was a priest with an important job. The king of Persia gave him permission to lead Israelite families on a four-month journey back to Jerusalem. It was a blessing, but the road ahead was dangerous.

The king gave Ezra millions of dollars in gold and silver for the temple of God. Because they carried so much treasure, they became a target for robbers and bandits who hid along the roads to ambush travelers.

Ezra faced a choice. He could ask the Persian king to send an army of soldiers and horsemen to act as bodyguards. But Ezra felt embarrassed to ask for earthly protection because he had already testified that God's hand protects those who seek Him.

Instead of relying on a human army, Ezra called the families together at the river of Ahava. He declared a time of fasting and prayer. The men, women, and children bowed down, asking God to be their protector and guide their steps on the journey.

Then they began the long trip. Day after day, God watched over their going out and coming in. No enemy was able to destroy them, and the treasures were safely carried all the way to Jerusalem.

This story teaches us that God can protect His children on every journey. We should still be wise and careful, but our deepest safety is not in perfect plans, strong guards, or easy roads. Our help comes from the Lord, who never sleeps and never loses sight of us.

☀️ True Story

On March 1, 1950, the choir at West Side Baptist Church in Beatrice, Nebraska, was supposed to meet for practice at 7:20 in the evening. The singers were usually punctual, and if everything had gone normally, they would have been inside the church together.

But that night, a strange series of delays happened across town. The pastor's wife spilled food on her dress and had to iron a new one. A teenage girl struggled with a math problem and stayed home a few extra minutes to finish her homework.

Two girls listened to a radio program and wanted to hear the end before leaving the house. One man's car refused to start, and a mother got distracted writing a letter. For fifteen unrelated reasons, every member of the choir was late.

At exactly 7:27 PM, an unseen gas leak inside the church ignited. An explosion ripped the brick building apart. The blast shattered windows across town and collapsed the church roof straight into the basement.

The spot where the fifteen choir members were supposed to stand was buried under thousands of pounds of bricks. If anyone had arrived on time, they would not have survived the destruction. What felt like frustrating interruptions became part of God's protection.

This story shows that God can protect us even through delays we do not like. A slow morning, a forgotten item, or an interrupted plan may feel annoying, but we can trust that our God sees the whole road ahead.

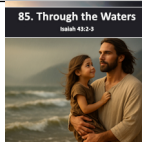
💬 Discussion Questions:

- What valuable items were Ezra and the Israelites carrying to Jerusalem?
- What time did the church building explode?
- The choir members were probably frustrated that they were running late, but God was protecting them! Has a canceled plan or a frustrating delay ever turned out to be a good thing for you?

🎬 Activity:

Show how God protects us on journeys! Punch three holes in the rim of a plastic cup and tie a string through each hole, knotting them together at the top. Fill the cup halfway with water. Take it outside and swing the cup in a fast circle over your head! Because of physics, not a drop of water will spill, even when the cup is upside down. Talk about how God's power holds us safely inside His care, no matter how crazy our journey gets.

Protection — Day 5



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#85) — KJV

Isaiah 43:2–3 "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour:"

💖 Apply the Promise!

When you go through terrifying, deep waters or face fiery trials, God promises He is right there with you. He is your Savior, and He will never let the scary things overflow you!

📖 Bible Story (Acts 27)

The apostle Paul was a prisoner traveling to Rome on a wooden sailing ship. While sailing across the Mediterranean Sea, they were caught in a hurricane known as Euroclydon.

The storm was so powerful it blocked out the sun and stars for fourteen days. The wind and waves tossed the ship around like a toy, and the sailors threw their cargo into the ocean. Everyone on board lost hope and thought they were going to drown.

But Paul belonged to God, and God was right there with him in the storm. An angel of the Lord stood beside Paul in the dark and promised that every person would survive the shipwreck.

Paul stood up, gathered the exhausted crew, and told the sailors to eat some food and be of good cheer. He trusted that God's promise was truth.

Suddenly, the ship crashed into a reef near an island, and the boat began breaking apart in the waves. The men had to jump into the turbulent water. Some swam, while others grabbed onto broken pieces of wood to stay afloat.

It was a true test of Isaiah 43. But just as God promised, the deep waters did not overflow them. Every one of the 276 men on the ship washed safely onto the beach, rescued from the sea! onto the beach, completely rescued from the sea.

God does not always save His children from every danger in this life, but He always stays with them, and He will safely keep them for His eternal kingdom.

☀️ True Story

In May 2013, Harrison Okene worked as a cook on a tugboat in the Atlantic Ocean. Early in the morning, a freak wave crashed into the boat, flipping it upside down.

The ship sank over one hundred feet to the bottom of the ocean floor.

Harrison was trapped inside a bathroom as the boat sank. Miraculously, a pocket of breathable air remained in the room with him. The ocean water filled the small room, rising to Harrison's chest.

He was plunged into darkness with no food, no light, and no way to escape the water. It was a terrifying shipwreck, but Harrison knew God was right there with him in the waters.

For three days, he sat shivering in the water. He cried out to God for protection, begging Him not to let the deep waters overflow him. He was losing oxygen and thought he would never see his family again. Finally, a team of rescue divers swam down to investigate the sunken ship, expecting to find no survivors.

When a diver swam past the flooded hallway, Harrison reached out his hand and grabbed the diver's arm! The rescue divers were absolutely shocked. Against all odds, God preserved Harrison's tiny air pocket for seventy-two hours! He was pulled up safely from the bottom of the sea!

Harrison's story shows that God can be with us even in the deepest, darkest places. We may feel trapped, afraid, or completely helpless, but no water is too deep for God to see us, hear us, and hold us in His care.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- What was the name of the hurricane that hit Paul's ship?
- How many hours was Harrison Okene trapped in the dark at the bottom of the ocean?
- Paul and Harrison were trapped in terrifying storms, but they trusted God's protection. What is the scariest "storm" or trial you have ever had to go through?

🎨 Activity:

Show how God keeps the water from destroying us! Fill a bowl with water and cover the entire surface with a heavy layer of cocoa powder or cinnamon. Have a child boldly stick their dry finger straight down into the water and pull it back out. The powder creates a magical, protective seal, and their finger comes out completely dry! Talk about how God's presence coats us and protects us from the deep waters.