



Themes: journey, life, rest, restoration, difficulty, death, goodness, mercy, enemies, forgiveness

Inspired by: Psalm 23, New King James version (adapted)

Opening words

Are you ready for a story? *(from now on look at the story materials)*

Now we have time and space to breathe.

Let's turn this upside down.

(after everything is out of the box, move the sand)

Your story, my story, our story, Let's be curious about this story.

Words	Actions (storyteller's perspective)
	<p>Move sand. In this story there are 5 'spaces' in a clockwise direction - beginning (for the shepherd and the sheep and for the 2 enemies), green pastures, still waters, paths of righteousness, valley of shadow of death. The table will be in the centre. Ensure the left hand side is flat - for the pasture and the still waters and the centre is flat for the table. Ensure there is plenty of sand along the right hand side and then create a deep valley.</p>
<p>There was a person called David and he wrote this psalm - a story about how he felt about God.</p>	
<p>You are my shepherd, I shall not want</p>	<p>Place down one sheep near you and then a person next to the left of the sheep. Use a person who has a 'hint' of walking so they also look OK when stood in front of the table.</p>
<p>You make me lie down in green pastures,</p>	<p>Place down 4 green leaves in the second fifth with a narrow path between them. Move the shepherd into the pastures with the sheep following. Stop in the middle.</p> <p><i>A note about moving the shepherd and the sheep: sometimes move them together using two hands and sometimes move the shepherd first, followed by the sheep. Using two hands obscures the view. Vary the distance between the shepherd and the sheep.</i></p>
<p>You lead me beside still waters, You restore my soul.</p>	<p>Place down 4 blue waves in two lines at the third fifth. Walk the shepherd along the water's edge with the sheep following. Stop in the middle.</p>
<p>You lead me in the paths of righteousness for your name's sake.</p>	<p>Place down 4 brown felt strips to make the edges of a path in the sand in the fourth fifth and move the shepherd along it, with the sheep following. Stop in the middle.</p>
<p>Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,</p>	<p>.Place 2 grey shapes on the slopes of the valley. Move the shepherd through the valley with the sheep following. Stop in the middle.</p>

Words	Actions (storyteller's perspective)
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.	<i>Walk the shepherd and the sheep together.</i>
	<i>Move the shepherd and the sheep out of the valley so they are back to where they started. Face them both outwards.</i>
You prepare a table before me	<i>Place the wool blanket in the centre. Walk the shepherd to the table with the sheep. Then move the sheep to the other side - with their head over the blanket, to give a sense of closeness.</i>
in the presence of my enemies.	<i>Place two 'enemy' sheep behind the shepherd and sheep so they are either side of them when you look straight on.</i>
You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over.	
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.	<i>Hold the heart in the palms of your hands.</i>
and I will dwell in your house for ever.	<i>Place the heart on the table.</i>
	<i>Walk one of the 'enemy' sheep to the table to face inwards with their head over the blanket. Leave the other sheep where it is.. This leave the ending open.</i>

Wondering *(You are now engaging with the circle so look up)*

Let's be curious about how we feel.
I wonder what part of this story you like?
I wonder what part you don't like?
I wonder what the story reminds you of?

Closing words

For all that's been said and for all that's not been said - thank you.
At the end put the objects from the story carefully away in reverse order.

The session could end here, but if you have time you could offer other ways to respond further to the story.

Ideas for further reflection

Playing with the story materials, writing, building, painting, moving to music, acting out adaptations of the story.

Sharing food and drink marks a threshold between OutoftheBox and what people are going onto next.

Ideas for a celebration

Tea and biscuits, hot chocolate round a campfire, a meal- whatever suits your situation.

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