



Holy Hallowe'en

If you can't get out to trick or treat this year, how about having fun as a family or bubble exploring the scariness and safe-home-ness of Psalm 23 – the Lord is my shepherd.

Activity time

If you can't get exactly these materials, just see what you can find around the house instead!

1 Green pasture picture



You will need: a big piece of paper or card (newspaper is fine as you're going to glue things all over it); a pen; glue; scissors; 'bits and pieces': you could go for a walk and collect a bag full of leaves, grass, seeds, sticks and feathers, or you could cut up old magazines or bits of cloth and wool from home

Our psalm starts in a beautiful, safe place full of food and everything else you need. For a sheep, that's a green field of grass, clean water in a pool and a lovely shepherd to look after you and show you where to go next. Make a collage of this scene (draw the outlines of the scene, then fill in the shapes by gluing on your bits and pieces), either with a green field, a pool of water and a shepherd. Alternatively, imagine what a beautiful, safe place full of food and all you need would look like for *you*, and make a collage of that (A den? A treehouse? A luxury hotel? A cyber cafe? A desert island? Your bedroom?).

Talk about the time you've felt safest and what makes you feel safe and happy at home, work or school.

2 A walk on the wild side

You will need: a bit of space inside or outside; some imagination

Turn your room or your garden into a walk on the wild side! Make it a bit like an obstacle course, but instead of things to be sporty on, try to create a series of fun, scary moments, using just the things that are around at home. For example, you might hang bits of string from a doorway and say that they're cobwebs at a Mystic Portal through which you must pass; or invite people into the shed and rattle the bicycle chain, telling them they've arrived in the deep dark dungeon of doom. Other ideas to use from films and books could include the Cave of..., the Tunnel of..., the Temple of..., the Pyramid of..., the Dread Chamber of..., the Forest of..., the Cellar of..., the Pit of..., the Ship of... (frankly, the Kitchen of... could be pretty scary.)

When your scary walk is completed, try walking it together, perhaps with torches and much screeching.

Talk about how it feels to be with someone else when things are scary.

3 A terrific table



You will need: banqueting roll or a disposable tablecloth; paper; scissors; coloured pens; paper plates if you have some; sweets

Decorate the table ready for your next meal, by giving it a party feel: draw on the tablecloth and make place name markers out of paper. You might want to make place mats, streamers and confetti too. Is there someone you could invite round to enjoy it all and eat with you, even if it's only beans on toast? You might need to have some sweets for pudding as a special treat!

Talk about how it feels to come home and find a special meal all ready for you, with people you love.

Celebration

Light a candle to remember Jesus. Remind each other of what you've been making and doing together about safe places, scary places and the terrific table.

Say that there's a very famous poem in the Bible, written by David (who killed Goliath), about how it feels to know that God gives you a safe place, is with you in the scary place and sits down to eat with you when you come home.

Read [Psalm 23](#) and ask which part everyone likes best.

You could invite everyone to say thank-you prayers, based on the psalm.

Say the Messy Grace together:

*May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
And the love of God
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
Be with us evermore
Amen*

Mealtime

Enjoy your party meal together!