



# The Shepherd's Promise

*Psalm 23: A story of abundance and trust*

Words by Gianni Parola • Illustrations by Pina Pennello



*To every child who dreams big,  
know that the universe is always listening,  
and everything you need  
is already on its way to you.*



## Everything you need



There is a kind shepherd who watches over you,  
the kindest friend you could ever know.  
He knows your heart and all your dreams.

*"You will always have enough," he says,  
"Everything you need is already here.  
Just believe, and you will see."*

The little sheep smiled and felt so light,  
because they knew: there is always enough.  
Always enough love. Always enough joy.



## CHAPTER TWO

# The gift of now



The shepherd led them to a magical place:  
soft green meadows, sparkling streams,  
where every flower whispered "thank you."

*"Stop and feel how good this is," he said,  
"When you are grateful for what you have,  
even more good things come to you."*

The little sheep breathed deeply and smiled.  
They noticed the warm sun, the cool breeze.  
"Thank you, thank you, thank you," they sang.

## CHAPTER THREE

# Trust the path



Sometimes the road ahead looked confusing,  
twisting and turning, hard to see.

But the shepherd smiled and said:

*"You don't need to know the whole way.*

*Just take the next step.*

*I will guide you to wonderful places*

*you cannot even imagine yet."*

And the little sheep learned to trust,  
knowing that good things were coming.

## CHAPTER FOUR

# Love is stronger than fear



One day they came to a valley of shadows,  
where fear whispered scary things.

But the shepherd's voice was calm and clear:

*"Fear is just a shadow - it cannot hurt you.*

*When you choose love instead of fear,  
the shadows disappear.*

*I am always with you."*

The little sheep chose love, and suddenly  
the valley didn't seem so dark anymore.



## More than you asked for



Then something wonderful happened!  
The shepherd prepared a great feast  
with more delicious things  
than they could ever eat.

*"This is how life works," he said with joy,  
"When you believe and are grateful,  
you don't just get what you need -  
you get more! Your cup overflows!"*

The little sheep laughed with delight.  
There was so much abundance to share!

## You already belong



And so, day by day,  
the shepherd led them home -  
a beautiful home made of light and love.

*"You don't have to earn your place," he said,  
"You already belong here.  
Goodness and love will follow you  
all the days of your life."*

And the little sheep understood:  
they were always loved, always safe,  
and everything they ever needed  
was already theirs.



## Psalm 23

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 paths of righteousness  
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley  
of the shadow of death,  
I will 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  
forever.

*Attributed to **King David**  
Shepherd, Psalmist, King of Israel*

# About the Creators

## Gianni Parola

### WRITER

Gianni Parola writes stories that help children understand the world around them. He believes every child deserves books that spark curiosity and wonder.

## Pina Pennello

### ILLUSTRATOR

Pina Pennello brings stories to life with her warm watercolor illustrations. Her art is inspired by the gentle beauty of Italian countryside and the magic in everyday moments.

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# About King David

Picture this: a boy in the hills near Bethlehem, watching sheep. Just him, the grass, the sky, and the quiet. That was David—before the crown, before the battles, before the songs that would echo through three thousand years.

He knew every sheep by name. He knew which ones wandered, which ones needed extra care, which ones would follow him anywhere. And in those long, peaceful hours under the sun, he learned something: **what it means to protect something you love.**

Then came Goliath. A giant. An army frozen in fear. And this shepherd boy—this kid—walked out with a sling and five smooth stones. Not because he was fearless. Because he trusted something bigger than fear.

Years later, David became king. He fought wars, made mistakes, broke his own heart more than once. The Bible doesn't hide any of it. But through it all, he kept writing. Pouring his heart out in songs—some joyful, some desperate, all honest. They called him the **"Sweet Psalmist of Israel."**

And Psalm 23? It's everything he learned in those hills. The green pastures he once led his sheep to. The still waters where they could drink safely. The rod and staff he carried to protect them. He knew what a good shepherd does—and he knew, deep down, that God shepherds us the same way. With care. With presence. Even through the dark valleys.

David wasn't perfect. Far from it. But he had something rare: **a heart that always found its way back.** Back to wonder. Back to trust. Back to the One who knew him—really knew him—and loved him anyway.

That's why his words still matter. Because they're real. Because they say: you can bring everything to God. Your fear, your mess, your joy, your questions. All of it. And you'll be held.

# *The End*



**Words:** Gianni Parola

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