



The Shepherd's Promise

Psalm 23: A story of abundance and trust

Words by Gianni Parola • Illustrations by Pino 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.*

CHAPTER ONE

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



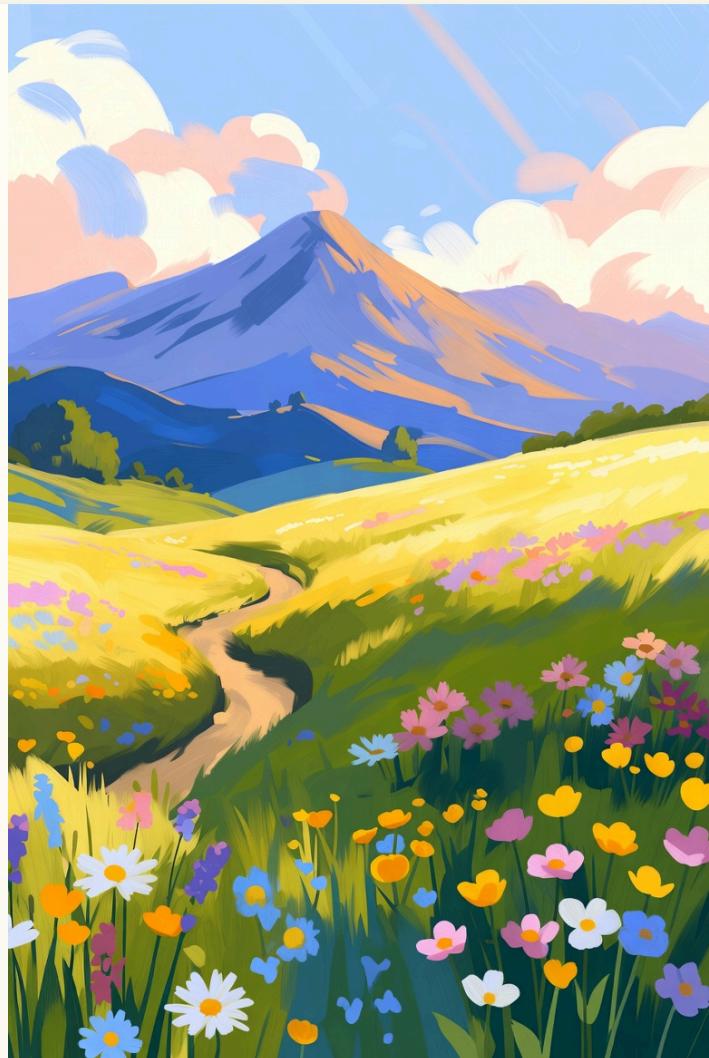
The shepherd led them to a magical place:
soft green meadows, sparkling streams,
where every flower whispered "thank you."

*"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.

CHAPTER FIVE

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!

CHAPTER SIX

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.

The End



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