



# 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



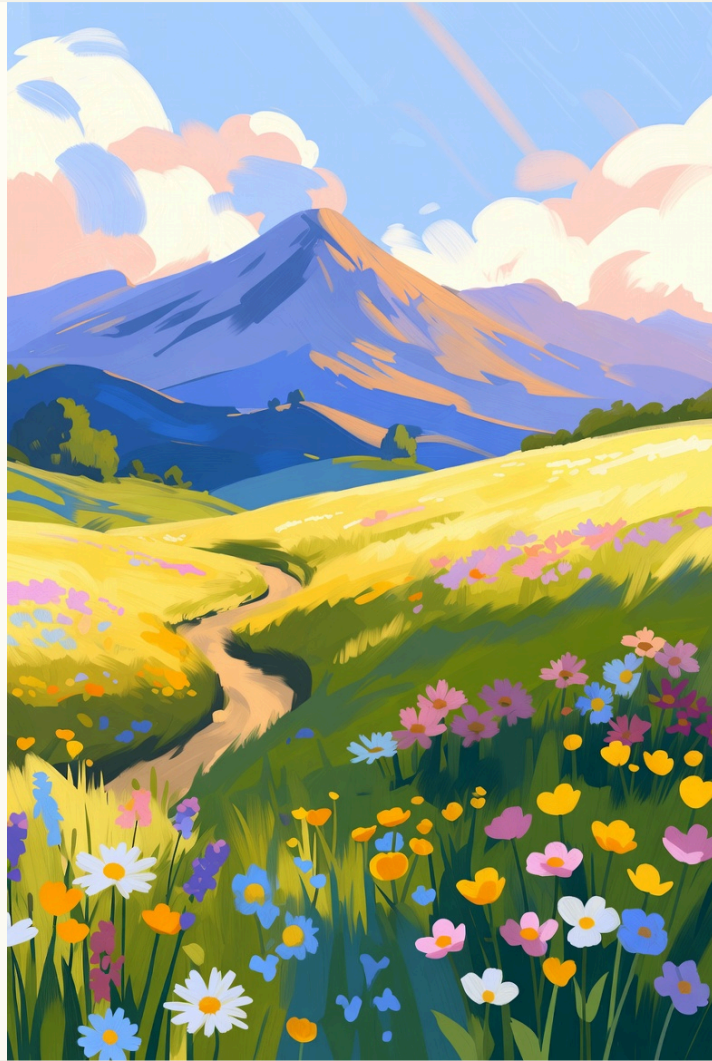
The shepherd led them to a magical place:  
soft green meadows, sparkling streams,  
where every flower whispered "thank you."

*"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 King David

**King David** (c. 1040-970 BCE) is one of the most beloved figures in biblical history. His life journey took him from the hills of Bethlehem to the throne of Israel, and his words continue to comfort millions around the world.

As a young shepherd boy, David spent his days watching over his father's sheep in the fields near Bethlehem. It was during these quiet hours, surrounded by nature and caring for his flock, that he learned the lessons of protection, guidance, and faithful care that would later inspire Psalm 23.

David's courage became legendary when, as a youth, he faced the giant Goliath with nothing but a sling and five smooth stones, trusting in God's protection. This same faith would sustain him through years of trials, battles, and eventually his reign as the second king of Israel.

But David is perhaps best remembered not as a warrior or king, but as the **"Sweet Psalmist of Israel."** He wrote many of the psalms in the Book of Psalms, pouring out his heart in songs of praise, lament, thanksgiving, and trust. His words speak to the deepest human experiences—joy and sorrow, fear and faith, doubt and devotion.

Psalm 23 reflects David's intimate knowledge of both shepherding and being shepherded by God. The imagery of green pastures, still waters, and the shepherd's rod and staff come from his own experience as a young shepherd. Yet the psalm also reveals his mature understanding that just as he once cared for his sheep, God cares for His people with even greater love and faithfulness.

David's legacy endures not because he was perfect—the Bible honestly records his failures as well as his triumphs—but because he had a heart that always turned back to God. His psalms teach us that we can bring our whole selves to God: our fears, our doubts, our joys, and our deepest longings.



## About the Creators



Gianni Parola

### 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

### 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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# *The End*



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