

The Rock, Sunday 3rd January 2021

New Year

To start

Equipment

Paper and coloured pencils



Begin by reading [Isaiah 43:19 and 25](#)

19 For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?

I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.

25 “I—yes, I alone—will blot out your sins for my own sake and will never think of them again. (NLT)

Say that it's great to start something new. Ask the children if they like starting a new page in their books at school, or better still, a whole new book? Something that doesn't have any mistakes in it?

Say that a new year is like that – a fresh new start.

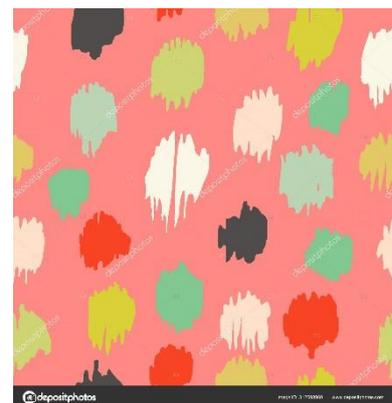
Last year we made mistakes – we did silly things and we did wrong things. Ask the children if they have done things that they wish they had not done?

But as we start a new year, we start again. Fresh.

Using a piece of paper, say that the paper is like last year. Invite children to get a pencil and scribble on the paper – see, last year has mistakes in it. Discuss how God forgives our mistakes, in God's mind, last year's mistakes are finished. Screw up and throw piece of paper away.

Now get a new piece of paper and ask children to decorate it with a pattern of brightly coloured spots. Say that this is the good things that are going to happen in the new year – a new start!

The Point: To graphically illustrate that God forgets the old mistakes that we have made and to see that the new year will bring new opportunities.



Teaching time

Equipment

Paper and coloured pencils

Say that many years ago, a man called David wrote this poem about the way God looks after us – it's in the Bible in a poetry book called Psalms. Ask the children to shut their eyes while they listen to it:

You, Lord, are my shepherd.

I will never be in need.

2 You let me rest in fields
of green grass.

You lead me to streams
of peaceful water,

3 and you refresh my life.

You are true to your name,
and you lead me
along the right paths.

4 I may walk through valleys
as dark as death,

but I won't be afraid.

You are with me,

and your shepherd's rod[a]
makes me feel safe.

5 You treat me to a feast,
while my enemies watch.

You honour me as your guest,
and you fill my cup
until it overflows.

6 Your kindness and love
will always be with me
each day of my life,
and I will live forever
in your house, Lord. (CEV)

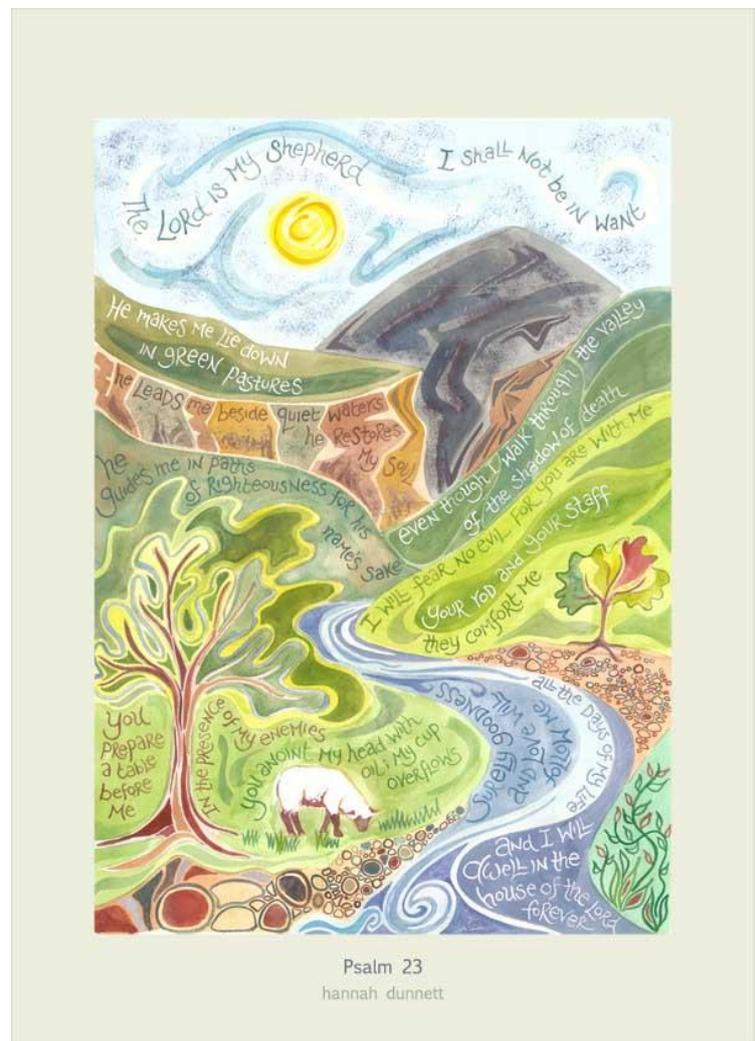
Ask the children what David says God does for us in the Psalm.

(Answers may include, he provides, he gives us rest, he keeps us safe, he feeds us.)

If the children are struggling to answer, then read bits out and ask them what God means by that – i.e. read verse one. What will God give us? Read verse 5 – how will God feed us?

Now ask them to draw a picture of one of the ways in which God looks after us. Say that we can trust God to look after us in the new year.

The Point: to recognise that we can trust God in the coming year.



Response

Sing the song “I have decided to follow Jesus” together. You could just sing the chorus or try this extended kids’ version!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sEL0WpeH088>

As you sing, try putting in some actions or follow each other around the room like a conga line.

Say that we want to follow Jesus into the new year.

The Point: To commit to following Jesus this year.

THE ROCK

(Material taken from Energize by Urban Saints - <https://www.energize.uk.net/>)