

<b>Black History Month 2022</b>	
<b>CHILDREN’S Devotional age 4-9 What We Need By Captain Daniel Simmons</b>	
<b>Topic:</b>	Restoration: Healing. Renewal. Refreshment.
<b>Scripture:</b>	Psalm 23:3
<b>Synopsis:</b>	To teach children that God is everything we could ever want or need, and we can find rest in Him.
<b>Props/Costumes:</b>	A list written on a piece of paper. (Birthday list, shopping list, or general list. You may need to change some of the content to reflect the type of list you made.) One Restoration (Made New) List and one additional small piece of paper that just says “Jesus.” Have enough small pieces of paper with the name “Jesus” on it to pass to all the kids.

**Script:**

**BLACK HISTORY INTRO**

Can anyone tell me what month it is? That’s right!!! February. Can anyone tell me what we celebrate this month? (Help them get to the correct answer.) Correct!!! This month is also known as Black History Month. Black History Month takes place every February and it is a time to remember and honor the contributions of African Americans who have made our communities and our country a better place for all to live, both in the past and the present!

Many men and women and even children have helped to bring a better life for all. There are stories all around us! While we have much work to do, we celebrate these people and their accomplishments and how we all benefit because of them!

[\*You may share the example of Ruby Bridges here.]

God created all people equal and invites us to be a part of his family. He also created all of us to have rest and be assured that he loves us and is always with us.

**My List**

I have something to illustrate this. Can anyone tell me what this is?  
[Motion to the grocery list or birthday list.]

How many of you have ever written or made a list?

Sometimes we write lists before we go to the grocery store, so we won't forget anything. Sometimes we write to-do lists when we have a lot of things we must do.

What are some other lists that we make sometimes?  
[Wait for answers ...]

That's right! My birthday is coming up, so I wrote a list of things that I want! I'll give it to [*spouse, family member, or just an officer or another well-known adult in the church*] over there so they can get me these things for my birthday.

Let's see what I have on here...

A fuzzy warm blanket. Doesn't that sound nice? What else... a new toy to play with when I'm bored... maybe a new bike... these are all things that I want. So, I thought. I was reading my Bible this morning. Psalm 23 had some really great things in it that caused me to think about my list.

Is it okay if I share it with you?

It says, "The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want." I shall not be in want! Did you hear that? The Bible tells us that with the Lord as our shepherd, we will have everything we need or want! This means He will provide for all our needs.

Let's keep reading... "He makes me lie down in green pastures... he restores my soul, he comforts me... my cup overflows!" So that means instead of a warm fuzzy blanket, I have God to comfort me!

When I'm restless, bored or nervous or scared, and things are really hard ... God  
When I feel like I don't have enough, and I want something more... God will show me that he has made my cup overflow. That is amazing!

After I read that, I made a new list.

[Flip over to the next piece of paper in your notebook and show it to the children.]

I call it my **Made New** list. King David, who wrote this Psalm, had to remind himself of some very important truths to get him through a tough time. There were tons of things King David wanted but there was a list of things he needed. We go through hard times too, right? We too need some rest, peace, and restoration. Let's look at the list.

Made New List: (This is what God gives us!)

1. The LORD is my shepherd.
2. He makes me lie down in green pastures.
3. He leads me beside still waters.
4. He restores my soul.
5. He leads me.
6. I will fear no evil.
7. The Lord is with me.
8. He comforts me.
9. He prepares a table before me.
10. He gives me goodness and mercy.
11. He will be with me and I with Him.

Now, that can be a lot to remember. Can I show you a list that sums up this entire list?

Can you see what I wrote? Yes! It says, “Jesus.”

The Lord loves children. He cherishes you so much. Us adults go through difficult times from time to time, but so do you. Jesus can bring you peace, joy, comfort, and so much more.

This one-word list is going to stay in my pocket so I can remember to place my trust and hope in Jesus. Would you like one? Do you think you can keep it in your pocket? May the list you keep in your pocket be a constant reminder that Jesus is there for you and desires to be your shepherd.

*[close in prayer]*

\*Ruby Bridges Story

Consider a brave six-year-old girl named Ruby Bridges. She had a very important role to play in our history. Her actions helped to bring about change for children in our schools all over the country. But she met hardship. She was the first African American student to attend an all-white school in New Orleans. At that time, black children and white children didn't attend the same school. They were segregated or separated from each other. And for this to change, she had to be escorted to school by federal marshals to protect her.