

The Lord is My Shepherd

Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a flexible guide that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God's Word.

Message Summary

The New Day Church family is reading through the bible chronologically in 2017. Each week we hear a sermon based on the material we have already read for the week. We are learning that the story of Redemption is on full display from Genesis to Revelation. Both Old and New Testaments are one unified story that speaks of the beauty of God and the Redemption He has provided for us.

One of King David's most beloved Psalms is Psalm 23 where he proclaims, "*The Lord is my shepherd!*" David grew up as a shepherd boy who took care of his father's flock. Ultimately, God made him king, shepherd over Israel, after He rejected Saul. Yet David was a good follower. He displayed the truth that one cannot be a good leader without being able to be a good follower. David understood that though he may be shepherd over Israel, the Lord was his Shepherd. He sought the Lord's leadership in his life and he understood that God providentially cared for him in all circumstances.

The same Lord that cared for David in all circumstances also providentially cares for us today. Jesus proclaimed in John 10:11 that he was the Good Shepherd who would lay down His life for the sheep. Regardless of the situation you face, Jesus the Good Shepherd cares for you. You can trust Him just as David trusted the Lord to care for all his needs. Because of what David knew about the Lord, he was able to make 3 proclamations in this Psalm that we can make today; "*I shall not want...I will fear no evil...I shall dwell!*"

But why could David make these proclamations? Because he was a strong king? He was wealthy? He was the greatest soldier of all time? No! He made these proclamations not because of who he was but because of who the Lord is. Psalm 23 isn't about David but rather about the Lord. In the same way, we have no needs, nothing to fear, and an eternal home not because of our abilities but rather because the Lord Jesus is our provider, protector, and sustainer. Just as the Lord providentially cared for David, Jesus providentially cares for us!

As you prepare to meet with your Missional Community this week examine the truths from this sermon and be prepared to answer the questions on the next page. Also, examine what you aren't believing about these truths. What needs do you have? What do you fear in life? How do you express worry about the future? Jesus cares about these things in your life. He wants you to follow Him when the pastures are green and even when they are brown. He wants you to follow Him when the water is still and even when it's rough. And he wants you to follow Him when the way is bright and even when it's the valley of the shadow of death. He will lead you and care for you through it all because the Lord is your Shepherd!

Message Outline

If the Lord is your Shepherd:

1. You have no needs. (1-3)
 - He provides plenty.
 - He gives rest & peace.
 - He renews your soul.
 - He guides your life experiences:
 - For His glory.
 - For your good.
2. You have nothing to fear. (4)
 - He is close:
 - In hostile circumstances.
 - Before hostile people.
 - He protects you from:
 - The enemy.
 - Wandering.
3. You have an eternal home. (5-6)
 - He welcomes you as family.
 - He satisfies you completely.
 - He loves you unconditionally.
 - He cares for you eternally.

The Lord is My Shepherd

Group Discussion

Use the following questions to help make application of God’s Word to your Head (What God wants me to know), to your Heart (What God wants me to desire/value), and to your Hands (What God wants me to do).

In regard to Psalm 23:

1. What does this passage teach about God? (God’s Identity; Theology)
2. What does this passage teach about what God has done? (God’s Action; Christology)
3. What does this passage teach about man/me? (Old & New Creation Identity; Ecclesiology)
4. What does this passage teach about what I should do? (Reveals what I really believe about Questions 1-3; Missional Ecclesiology)
5. What does this passage teach about how I do it uniquely in my context? (personal action steps of obedience)

Weekly Prayer Focus

• Church:

- Pray as we seek to identify additional elders to lead us into the future.
- Pray about going on a global mission trip this year.
- Pray as we seek to raise up additional leaders who will multiply our Missional Communities.
- Pray for our worship space.
- Pray for our finances.
- _____
- _____

• Local:

- Pray that all who have believed the Gospel will obey Jesus in believer’s baptism.
- Pray for new relationships that will lead to Gospel conversations.
- Pray for the Missional Communities to impact their communities with the Gospel.
- Pray that God would burden us with the lostness in our cities, neighborhoods, and at work.
- Pray that God will identify 5 people you can begin to invest in and engage with the Gospel.
- _____
- _____
- _____

• Global:

- Pray that God would give you a heart for the nations.
- Pray for new workers on the mission field.
- Pray for the team working in SEA, the new believers, for those who have heard the Gospel, and the church planting movement among the unreached.
- Pray for Good Shepherd Ministries and Bill & Sandy Younger.
- Pray for Servants Hearts Ministries and Bob & Georgette Kornegay.
- Pray for Pastor Abraham and his church in Guatemala.
- Pray for the work of Paul & Sarah Young and Dakota Baptist Church in North Dakota.
- _____
- _____
- _____