

PSALM 23 TEACHING GUIDE WEEK 1



MAIN SCRIPTURES:

Psalm 23:1 & 4 SECONDARY: John 10:1-18

MAIN POINT:

Jesus is our Good Shepherd in life's highest highs and lowest lows.

JESUS CONNECTION:

Jesus is our Good Shepherd and through faith in Him we have full life.

NOTES

THE WHAT

WHAT are we talking about and WHY does it matter to me? (2-4 min)

ME

 Describe a time when you got lost. What happened? How did you lose your way? How did the situation resolve? (Bonus points if it's a funny story)

WE

 No one likes being lost. It's much better to know where we're going or at least know someone who can lead us in the right direction.

TRANSITION

• We're about to dive into one of the most popular psalms in the Bible: Psalm 23. The psalm begins by comparing God to a shepherd who guides, provides for, and cares for his sheep.

SO WHAT

So WHAT does this mean for my faith and life with God? (6-8 min)

GOD

- The 23 Psalm is one of the most well known passages in the Bible. This is a passage written by David. If you look at David's life you will see that this is an individual that has gone thought the biggest personal victories and experienced the lowest valleys life has to give and after experienced all that life has to give Him he is crying out in identifying that God is his Shepherd.
 - His resume is pretty amazing:
 - o 1 Samuel 17- Killed Goliath
 - o 2 Samuel 5:1-5- Made King
 - But we also see a train wreck in his family.
 - 2 Samuel 12:15-23- Lost a child
 - 2 Samuel 15- Son removed him from his throne and tried to kill him
 - And it was David that through everything he was experiencing...
 writes "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want."

	

SO WHAT CONTINUED

GOD CONTINUED

- There are a lot of names of God in the Bible that bring about this feeling of royalty, honor, majestic names. For example, God the Creator- That is powerful. He is the creator of everything.
- But here David brings that Aweness of God right to the ground by identifying that God is our Shepherd.
- Even though David is the one that shines light on God being a shepherd to us. It was Jesus in (John 10) that Jesus calls himself the "GOOD SHEPHERD". So today and the next few weeks we are going to reference both Psalm 23 and John 10 as we unpack this together.

READ PSALM 23 TOGETHER. OTHER VOICES TRY TO GRAB OUR ATTENTION

- Notice how verse one ends. "I shall not want." Ever wonder what that means?
- Everything thing else around me: Dreams, career, opportunities, fame, money, success, achievements, all other voices, all other ideas, all other rewards do not match up to a life with Jesus.
- See that there are other voices that try so hard to grab our attention every single day. These are other shepherds, other leaders, other influencers that we might be tempted to follow.
- SELF (OUR OWN INNER VOICE): There's our own inward pride where
 we might believe we are all we need, "It doesn't matter what scripture
 says or how God has set up boundaries to guide me." That is a voice a
 shepherd that easy to follow.
- PEERS: Other shepherds could also include those around us. Maybe a
 friendship/ relationship we are in that speaks to you and your life
 motives come from others. You get your advice from this crowd so you
 have submitted them to be the ones to guide you.

JOHN 10 CONNECTION

- Jesus actually refers to all other ways to thieves and robbers. They will
 rob, steal, and guide you to destruction to where there is no rest,
 provision, care or eternal hope. But Jesus calls us to him and where he
 says....Those who walk uprightly will lack no good thing.
- Over this series we are looking at what he leads us to, what he bring us to, what are the promises of God we see with being under his care.

JESUS IS OUR GOOD SHEPHERD IN LIFE'S HIGHEST HIGHS AND LOWEST LOWS.

- We are going to be looking at the care and provision of God. But what about those here today finding themselves stuck in the valley?
- This is the hopelessness that you might have once faced. Feeling no way out. Feeling stuck in depression and pain. This is a loss of a friend or family member. This is the voice inside you that constantly tells you you're not good enough. This is where God moves. David the writer of this psalm has a constant theme in psalm of asking "Oh where are you O Lord? Oh God show yourself to me. You get this idea that David is finding himself here in the valley.
- In this passage, we are seeing a few things about our experience in the valley for those that allow God to be their guide, compass (aka: their shepherd).
- We fear no evil. This does not mean we are going to enjoy the valley moments in life or not be anxious about the possibilities that await while in the valley. This means that while we are in the valley we are not going to live by fear.
- Look back at verse 4: "I will fear no evil for you are with me."
- John 10 passage- when pain, death, sorrow comes they will leave us but Jesus will not leave us.

NOTES

JESUS IS OUR GOOD SHEPHERD IN LIFE'S HIGHEST HIGHS **NOTES** AND LOWEST LOWS. This is not a life without pain, in our pain He will be with us. This is what this means: If you are here tonight and you feel forgotten. you feel hopeless, you feel ruined, you feel lost, you feel empty...I want to remind you of this. He is with you in this valley. He is beside you. All other shepherds will abandon you but God hasn't. Jesus in not going anywhere. The verse also says "Your rod and your staff, they comfort me." Those are two separate things. Rod = small club that David would've used to kill lions and bears and anything that would've tried to harm the sheep. As your Good Shepherd, God fights for you. Staff = used to navigate the sheep around difficult terrain. God knows your path won't always be easy, but He is there to guide you. Let that sink in. JESUS CONNECTION This is the foundation of our faith. Jesus is our Good Shepherd and through faith in Him we have full life. Have you trusted Jesus to be your Good Shepherd, your Lord, your God? It's the best choice you can ever make and if you haven't made it yet, you can tonight! If you want to know more, ask me or someone about it. **TRANSITION** So what does all this mean for you? **NOW WHAT** NOW that I know, HOW can I live this out? (2-4 min) YOU What valleys do you have in your life? In your valleys, are you turning to Jesus or are you running to something or someone else? WE When others in your life are in valleys – are you encouraging them to run to Jesus for help or are you encouraging them to run to something or someone else? **PRAY** Close your time together in prayer.