

The Shepherd's Psalm

New Life Lessons
Aug. 13 & 14, 2016
Pastor Vince Llamas

- **Day One – Read Psalm 23.** How will you commit to developing a relationship with God? What practical steps can you take today to get closer to God? Make time to personalize Psalm 23 and put yourself into the situations the Psalm mentions. Then read it as if God was speaking to you (e.g. “I am your shepherd; you don’t have to want.).

Pray and ask God to draw you closer to Him. Ask the Lord to give you a great awareness of His presence with you. Confess to Him where you are with Him and ask Him to pour out His love and kindness to you.

- **Day Two – Read John 10:1-11.** God is constantly doing things on our behalf, things that we are not even aware of. Ephesians 1 says that “God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing.” How are you doing with recognizing and then receiving what God is doing for you? Part of recognizing and receiving what God is doing for us is to slow down and ask God to give us awareness and an open heart to Him. What is one thing you can change today that might help you do this?

Pray and ask God for a greater awareness for what He is doing for you these days. Ask Him to “open the eyes of your heart” so that you can more clearly see the blessings he is sending to you.

- **Day Three – Read John 10:27-30.** God asks us to trust and rely on Him. Our faith and confidence in Him pleases Him. How are you doing in your walk of faith? What areas of your life do you find it difficult to trust your Good Shepherd? What is one thing today you could do that would help strengthen your trust in God?

Pray and ask God for the encouragement to demonstrate a greater trust in Him. Pray and ask Him to give you insight into the Bible as you read it and use it to build your confidence in Him.

The Shepherd's Psalm - Psalm 23

The Psalm of David

1 The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, 3 He refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for His name's sake. 4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. 6 Surely Your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

What do we discover about God through Psalm 23?

1. He wants a relationship with His followers.

“The LORD is my shepherd...” Psalm 23:1a

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” John 10:11

“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.” John 10:14-15

“Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture.” Psalm 100:3

2. He provides for all of our needs.

“I lack nothing.” Psalm 23:1b

“And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19

“Lord, make me to know my end, and what is the measure of my days, that I may know how frail I am.” Psalm 39:4 NKJV

3. He knows what is best for us.

“He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He refreshes my soul, He guides me along the right paths, for His name’s sake.” Psalm 23:2-3

“The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” John 10:2-5 (Isaiah 53:6a; Proverbs 3:5-6)

4. He protects us in all situations.

“Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.” Psalm 23:4

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.” John 10:27-30

“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.” Psalm 23:5 (2 Thessalonians 3:3)

5. He extends love and kindness to us every day of our lives.

“Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life...” Psalm 23:6a

“Love is patient, love is kind.” 1 Corinthians 13:4a

“And now these three remain; faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.” 1 Corinthians 13:13

“Don’t you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can’t you see that his kindness is intended to run you from your sin?” Romans 2:4 NLT

“God told them, “I’ve never quit loving you and never will. Expect love, love, and more love!” Jeremiah 31:3 MSG

6. God has made an eternal commitment to us.

“I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” Psalm 23:6b

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me, My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.” John 14:1-3

“We are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. For we live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.” 2 Corinthians 5:6-8

How do I develop a Psalm 23 kind of attitude?

- **Commit to developing a relationship with God.**
- **Commit to developing the ability to recognize and receive what God is doing for you.**
- **Commit to developing your ability to rely on God to a greater degree.**

