

The GOOD SHEPHERD

A STUDY OF PSALM 23

OPENING NIGHT: THE GOOD SHEPHERD

God chose David as King of Israel

Sheep are creatures that lack a sense of direction, leaving them defenseless and vulnerable without a shepherd. Unable to care for themselves, they can be quite stubborn. Sound familiar? Just as a shepherd protects and guides his sheep, rescuing them when they stray and meeting their needs, we have a Good Shepherd who does the same for us. He provides not only for our physical needs but also offers peace, restoration, presence, and an abundant life now and for eternity. We will dive into Psalm 23 and the life of David, a shepherd who later became King of Israel and the author of this Psalm.

Scripture: Psalm 23:1, 1 Samuel 16:11-13

Key Verse: The Lord is my shepherd, I have what I need. Psalm 23:1

Life Question: What does it mean for God to be your shepherd?

DAY 1: THE GOOD PEACE

God was with David in his battle against Goliath. Shepherds bring peace to their flocks through consistent care, protecting them from predators, and guiding them to safe pastures. A shepherd's calming presence, voice, and touch can also alleviate fear and anxiety among the sheep. In a world of hurry, pressure, and performance, the Good Shepherd offers us peace and rest. When David faced Goliath, he had peace knowing that God had delivered him before and He would again.

Scripture: Psalm 23:2, 1 Samuel 17:33-37, Psalm 144

Key Verse: He lets me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside quiet waters. Psalm 23:2

Life Question: In what areas of your life do you need rest and peace?

DAY 2: THE GOOD RESTORATION

God restored David after his sin with Bathsheba and Uriah. When a sheep wanders off or gets trapped, the shepherd brings them back to the flock. The shepherd also cares for their flock by nursing their injuries and illnesses and properly shearing them. In a world of darkness and evil, we are prone

to wonder, in need of rescue. The Good Shepherd offers direction and spiritual restoration and renewal for us. David acknowledged his sin against Bathsheba and Uriah, asked for forgiveness, and was restored.

Scripture: Psalm 23:3, 2 Samuel 12: 7-10, 13-14, Psalm 51

Key Verse: He renews my life; he leads me along the right paths for his name's sake. Psalm 23:3

Life Question: What does spiritual restoration and renewal need to look like for you?

DAY 3: THE GOOD PRESENCE

God gave David peace during Saul's pursuits. The shepherd's presence is critical for the well-being and survival of a flock of sheep. The Good Shepherd is ever with us. His presence brings comfort, not fear. He provides guidance, through both the good and difficult times. As David was on the run from Saul, who was trying to kill him, the Lord was with him.

Scripture: Psalm 23:4, 1 Samuel 18:10-14, Psalm 57

Key Verse: Even when I go through the darkest valley, I fear no danger, for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. Psalm 23:4

Life Question: How can you experience God's presence during challenging situations?

DAY 4: THE GOOD LIFE

God established His Kingdom through David. Shepherding requires a deep commitment to each sheep and the flock as a whole. This commitment is usually long term. The Good Shepherd is good and merciful and promises abundant life now and His presence forever. God established His Kingdom through David forever, to be fulfilled through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Scripture: Psalm 23:5-6, 2 Samuel 7:6-16, Psalm 89:20-29

Key Verse: Surely goodness and faithful love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD as long as I live. Psalm 23:6

Life Question: What does an abundant life look like for you?