

# THE SHEP HERD

# **DAY 1 - THE LORD IS OUR SHEPHERD**

**PSALMS 23:1-6**

**PSALMS 100:3**

## **DEVOTIONAL**

If you have ever driven down a country road you would have encountered sheep or other farm animals wandering down the road. Sometimes they are alone and you have to wait for them to move on before you can continue driving, but sometimes they have someone to herd and direct them out of the way; a shepherd. Watching that shepherd work immediately shows you how important they are to the well-being and lifestyle of those sheep. The same could be said for God. There are many instances in the Bible that God is compared to the shepherd and us His sheep. In Psalms, David specifically tells us we need a shepherd. Shepherds are responsible for the well-being and safety of their flock; they are dedicated, concerned and care for their sheep with passion. God is the same way with us because He loves us as His children.

And because God loves us as His children and cares for us as our shepherd, there are benefits to having God as our shepherd. This week we are going to look at three ways God cares for us and gain a deeper revelation of His love for us.

## **PRAYER**

Dear God, thank you for being a good shepherd and caring for me. As I learn about how You care for me, I pray that my heart and mind would be open to You so that I would have a deeper revelation of You and Your love.

## **DAY 2 - WE LACK NOTHING**

**PSALMS 23:1-2**

**PHILIPPIANS 4:19**

### **DEVOTIONAL**

The first benefit to having God as our shepherd that David mentions is that we lack nothing. When a shepherd is caring for their herd, they ensure the sheep are fed, watered, have shelter and are healthy. At a minimum, God does the same thing. God can and will supply all of our needs. Sometimes our humanity overcomes the truth we know, that God can do anything, and start to think our needs are too big and too complex for God to handle. The Bible teaches us that there is nothing too hard for God to do, that He owns cattle on a thousand hills and that God's arm is not too short to reach out and save us from anything we may encounter.

What we need to understand is that there is nothing God cannot do; there is no need He cannot supply, no sickness He cannot heal, no debt He cannot pay, no sin He cannot forgive. And even more, He is happy to meet all our needs and ensure we lack nothing because He loves us. A sheep cannot earn the love or care of their shepherd and we cannot earn the love and provision of God because He is a good God.

### **PRAYER**

Thank you, God, that you love me and provide for me so that I lack nothing. With You by my side, I know I am never without what I need. I pray that You would continue to bless me and my family so that we would never lack and have enough to share with others.

## **DAY 3 - WE HAVE REST**

**PSALMS 23:1-2**

**MATTHEW 11: 28-30**

### **DEVOTIONAL**

The second benefit to having God as our shepherd is that we have rest. Do you ever lie awake at night with a busy mind, thoughts running rampant, unable to fall asleep and rest? You're not alone. The burdens and weights that come with family, work, education, relationships and goals can be heavy and overwhelming, which is why God's provision of rest and peace is so valuable. Like a shepherd helping his flock to rest and sleep, God does the same. He brings rest to our troubled minds and peace to our restless hearts and spirits, even in the midst of great turmoil and stress. In the book of Acts (Ch 12:1-18), Peter has been arrested and is about to be executed. The night before his execution you would expect him to be up and awake, anxious and praying for salvation. But instead, Peter slept peacefully while chained between two guards. Why? Because his shepherd gave him rest.

Believe it or not, it is possible for us to experience that same level of rest, peace and stillness of mind and spirit in the face of adversity and opposition. We just have to call on God and trust that He is our shepherd.

### **PRAYER**

God, I thank you that there is peace available for me to partake in. I pray that every time I am with You, every time I am anxious or fearful, that Your peace would overcome my mind, spirit and heart. Be my shepherd and help me to rest.

## **DAY 4 - WE ARE LED**

### **PSALMS 23:1-2**

#### **DEVOTIONAL**

Another benefit of having God as our shepherd is that He leads us. Do you use a GPS to get around when you drive or walk somewhere new? What's great about a GPS is that it will lead you exactly where you need to go, but you can also choose a different route if you want to. God does something very similar as our shepherd: He leads us down the best path, but He does so as a guide. He doesn't force or manipulate where we go; we still have the freedom to choose but we have to trust Him. God wants to guide every area of lives; our finances, our relationships, our desires, our parenting, our marriage and our ministry. He wants to guide our present and our future and He does this by showing us the best path for us to take the same way a shepherd shows his flock which way to go and a GPS shows us which route to take. God guides us.

Sometimes He guides us through Bible reading, dreams or impressions of the Holy Spirit. He guides us so that He can lead us safely through life, with blessing and provision, because when God is our shepherd, we are led with love.

#### **PRAYER**

Dear God, I want to walk the path You have for me. Thank you for guiding me down the best path for me every day. I pray that I would always hear Your guidance, respect it and be obedient to it.

## **DAY 5 - SHEPHERD EQUALS LORDSHIP**

### **PSALMS 23:1-2**

#### **DEVOTIONAL**

Psalms 23 teaches us the benefits of having God as our shepherd. However, something that must be stated is that when a sheep has a shepherd, they are under their shepherd's lordship. It is by being under that lordship and submitting to their shepherd that sheep benefit. It is by being under God's lordship that we benefit. For Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, to be our shepherd He must also be the Lord of our life. If we are going to enjoy the benefits of having Jesus as our shepherd, of lacking nothing, of having rest and peace, of being led, then that means that we have to come under submission to the lordship of Jesus. This in turn means that we have come into agreement with the will of God for our lives, the ways of God in our lives and the word of God over our lives.

If God is to be our shepherd, we have to be sheep and allow Him to do His job as a shepherd. God is either 'Lord of all, or not Lord at all'; if we are going to enjoy the benefits of Him as our shepherd, He needs to be LORD. So, the question really is, what areas of our lives do we need to bring under the submission of His lordship – His Will, His Way and His Word?

#### **PRAYER**

Dear God, help me to submit to You in all things. I want You to be Lord of my life in every area and come under Your lordship, care and protection. You are my Lord and Saviour above all.

#### **FINAL PRAYER:**

Today, I decree that the Lord God is my shepherd; I decree that through God I lack nothing; I decree that through God I have rest and peace; I decree that I am led by God and His will for my life; I decree that I will submit to God's lordship over my life in every area. I decree and declare all this in Jesus' name. Amen.