

LifeChange Study of Psalms

Lesson 6 - Part I (Week of March 22, 2020)

The Point: The Shepherd Provides for His Sheep.

Prevailing Thought

Sheep must stay close to the Shepherd.
To get through the valley, you must keep walking.

Worship Time

Prayer and magnifying God for His goodness.

Opening Discussion

1. Share with the group:

How many can recite Psalm 23 by memory? Maybe you learned it growing up or have heard it read so many times. It is one of the most familiar of all the Psalms because of the comfort it gives. Let's read Psalm 23 again. There is one overarching motif or metaphor used in this psalm. What is it?

Introduction

Explain: This is a recurring metaphor in Scripture because they lived during an agricultural time. God chose to use what they knew best. From the very beginning we are introduced to God as Shepherd. He is the focus of the Psalm.

Word Time

As the shepherd because he is the leader and it is to our advantage to submit to his leadership and _____ in every way. Just as sheep are dependent upon the shepherd, so are we dependent upon God. This is often a challenge for us because in our culture we value and celebrate _____. It is reflected in the preamble of our Constitution. It is encouraged in our families and reinforced in society. Interdependence challenges us and yet, we see in this global pandemic just how interdependent and connected we all are.

There is nothing bad about independence except when it comes to living the life of a sheep. Sheep without a shepherd will want, _____ and become weary. Sheep are _____, highly emotional animals and therefore dependent upon the shepherd if they are going to survive.

Consider the following Scripture references: Mark 6:34, Numbers 27:17 Ezekiel 34:11-12, John 10:14-16.

How would you describe the reaction of people today in response to the pandemic?

Activity — Identify the five images used in Psalm 23 and discuss what each image teaches us.

1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____ 4) _____ 5) _____

For Discussion:

1. Consider, the darkest time in your life. How would you describe your greatest fear?

2. The shepherd uses his _____ and _____ to comfort David. How have you seen these instruments used in your spiritual life and development?

3. How does knowing God’s presence is with you enable you to walk through the dark places in your life?

4. In what ways have you experienced being overtaken by goodness and mercy? How do you explain goodness and mercy in the face of dying and death?

Assignment

Considering our present age, rewrite Psalm 23 in your own words, using present day images and reflect of your spiritual journey with the Lord.
