

Good Shepherd

MARCH 29, 2020
JOEL K. JOHNSON

Psalm 23:1	The LORD is my shepherd,	THAT'S RELATIONSHIP
	I lack nothing	THAT'S SUPPLY
Psalm 23:2	He makes me lie down in green pastures,	THAT'S REST
	he leads me beside quiet waters,	THAT'S RESTORATION
Psalm 23:3	he refreshes my soul	THAT'S HEALING
	He guides me along right paths	THAT'S DIRECTION
	for his name's sake.	THAT'S PURPOSE
Psalm 23:4	Even though I walk through the darkest valley,	THAT'S TESTING
	I will fear no evil,	THAT'S PROTECTION
	for you are with me;	THAT'S FAITHFULNESS
	your rod and your staff, they comfort me.	THAT'S DISCIPLINE
Psalm 23:5	You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.	THAT'S HOPE
	You anoint my head with oil;	THAT'S CONSECRATION
	my cup overflows.	THAT'S ABUNDANCE
Psalm 23:6	Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, ...	THAT'S BLESSING!
	and I will dwell in the house of the LORD	THAT'S SECURITY
	forever.	THAT'S ETERNITY

Message: Be a Psalm 23 person – A "WITH-GOD" PERSON

Four life-giving lines for your encouragement:

1. Psalm 23:1 *The LORD is my shepherd*
2. Psalm 23:1 *I shall not want*
3. Psalm 23:4 *Even though I walk through darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me*
4. Psalm 23:6 *Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life...*



Lent & Maundy Thursday

Online Lent & Maundy Thursday Services

Join us online for our final Lent service Wednesday, April 1, 6:00–6:30pm.

Maundy Thursday services are Thursday evening, April 9. Find more info on our website and join us online.



Bible Reading Plan

Join us in reading the Bible together. The Bible Reading Plan is a way to incorporate reading the Bible into your week. Each day read a passage and take a few moments to reflect. These verses are chosen by our staff and designed to complement the Sunday message.

Reflection questions:

What does it say?

What does it mean?

How can I live this out today?

- Psalm 23
- Isaiah 40:11
- Philippians 4:19
- Psalm 138:7
- Psalm 30:11–12

Want to go deeper? Check out our discussion questions to engage more with the sermon. You can find them at westwoodcc.org/current-message-series



You can still invite someone to Easter!

Share Easter with your friends and family. Head to our website for a digital invitation to Westwood's online services that you can email, text or post to social media.



90-Day Challenge

We've been hearing amazing stories of how people have experienced God's blessings during our 90-Day Challenge. Thank you to those who took the challenge. You can sign up, learn more, and share your experience at: westwoodcc.org/90day

BLESS

Learn about the BLESS practice of sharing your faith at westwoodcc.org/bless

Good Shepherd

Psalm 23

March 29, 2020

1. How are you all doing? Share as a group. What is something different that you have done in this new climate of “social distancing” and lots of time spent at home?

2. **Psalm 23** is one of the most well-known Psalms written by King David almost 3000 years ago. It is still relevant today and is known by both Jews and Christians. Read these verses together as a group. This may feel awkward at first as you navigate this in online community, lean into the awkward and give it a try

3. Pastor Joel walked through **Psalm 23** with a one-word description for each phrase of scripture:

The LORD is my shepherd,	RELATIONSHIP
I lack nothing.	SUPPLY
He makes me lie down in green pastures,	REST
leads me beside quiet waters,	RESTORATION
he refreshes my soul.	HEALING
He guides me along right paths	DIRECTION
for his name's sake.	PURPOSE
Even though I <u>walk</u> through the darkest valley,	TESTING
I will fear no evil,	PROTECTION
for you are with me;	FAITHFULNESS
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.,	DISCIPLINE
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.	HOPE
You anoint my head with oil;	CONSECRATION
my cup overflows.	ABUNDANCE
Surely your goodness and love will <u>follow</u> me all the days of my life,	BLESSING
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD	SECURITY
forever.	ETERNITY

What phrase of scripture and its corresponding one-word description strikes you as you navigate your life today? Why? Share with the group.

4. The first line of Psalm 23 says, “The Lord is my shepherd”. What does this mean? What qualities of a shepherd does God have as well? How are we as Christians like sheep?

5. **The theme of Psalm 23 is about God’s presence and how he provides for us.** Reflect as a group how you have experienced God’s presence and provision over the last few weeks.

6. As you look at God as a shepherd, you realize that you are not the one in charge. You have let God take over the steering wheel of your life. This is a **with-God life. He with me – I with Him.** If

you believe that, then you will be able to say, **“He’s got this”**. As you consider the current pandemic of Covid-19, do you believe that? Truly? What does this look like for you?

7. Line 2 reads, “I shall not want”. The Message version of this verse is, “I don’t need a thing” A **with-God life** means not lacking in anything. Read **Philippians 4:19** as a group. Discuss “wants” versus “needs” as a group. How are your needs different than your wants? Where does your perspective need to change on this?

8. Take a look at **Psalm 23:4**. Many of you may be familiar with the King James version of this verse which refers to the darkest valley as “the valley of the shadow of death” David actually wasn’t dying when he wrote this verse, he just felt like he was. What has been your “darkest valley”? Or are you in a dark valley now?

9. As we look deeper at **Psalm 23:4**, it says to WALK through the darkest valley. WALK NOT RUN. We often want to RUN when things are hard, not WALK. Walking means moving without fear and panic. What does this look like for you practically today? How can your group pray for you? How can you use this time to attend to the presence of God in your life?

Want to go deeper? Check out the Bible Reading Plan to engage more with the sermon this week. You can find it on the program at westwoodcc.org/current-message-series

If you have a prayer request, we would love to pray for you. Please submit it [HERE](#)