

GOODNESS *of* GOD

The Lord as Our Good Shepherd (p2)

AUGUST 3, 2025

WORSHIP (15 MINS)

Venue: Home gatherings

Sing one or two songs or play a song from You Tube.

Venue: Public place (school, café, park, etc.) or **Via Online,**

Testimonies: "What is your "high" or "your "low" this past week?"

Ask someone to do the opening prayer.

WELCOME (10 MINS)

Welcome guests/first-time visitors.

Ice-breaker Question: Have you ever been to a new place and got lost? How did you find your way back?

WORD(30-45 MINS)

Main Text: Read

Series Text: "Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!" Psalm 34:8 NKJV

Main Text: Psalm 23 - The Lord is My Shepherd

Intro: Last week, we shared on the goodness of God as our Good Shepherd, based on the first three verses of Psalm 23. David spoke of his security, peace, and communion with the Lord as something so fulfilling that he can boldly declare he desires nothing more. God alone is enough for Him. Everything else is simply an added blessing that flows from walking closely with a good and faithful Shepherd. So, let's continue the discovery of the goodness of God toward those who choose to follow Jesus as their Shepherd:

Here's how Psalm 23:4-6 reveals the goodness of God as the Good Shepherd:

1. God walks with us through the dark and difficult times - (v.4) "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me."

God's goodness is not only seen in times of blessing, but even more powerfully in times of trial. His presence comforts and protects us, even when we face the darkest and most frightening moments in life. As shepherds lead their sheep from the hills into the valley in search of pasture, the looming shadows cast by the mountains can confuse and frighten the sheep. Yet, the reassuring presence of the shepherd calms them, assuring them they are safe.

Q: When was the last time you were at a valley in life? How did you survive the challenges during those times?

2. God protects and comforts - (v.4b) "Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."

- The shepherd has a rod which is a short, sturdy club-like weapon used for protection. With a rod, the shepherd will willingly stand between his sheep and predators. While the staff is a longer, slender stick, often with a crook or hook at one end. It is used to guide sheep, keeping them on the right path. The crook could pull a sheep from a ditch or gently redirect it. Also used to draw sheep closer to the shepherd for inspection or care. The rod (for protection) and staff (for guidance) symbolize God's LOVING discipline, defense, and direction—evidence of His loving involvement in our lives. Read **Hebrews 12:6**. The thought of God's loving involvement in our lives brings comfort and assurance to us.

- Jesus, out of love for His sheep, willingly went to the cross and gave His life for them, assuring us of un-ending care - **"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep."** John 10:11 NLT

Q: When was the last time you experienced the the Lord's loving discipline, defense/protection or guidance in the past months? Would you share your experience?

3. God honors and blesses - (v.5) "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows."

Just as a shepherd prepares a physical tableland for his sheep in the midst of predators, God, as Shepherd, prepares abundant provision for us—even amid spiritual threats. God's goodness includes honoring His people and abundantly blessing them, even in the face of opposition. "Overflowing cup" shows abundance, joy, and satisfaction that come only from Him.

- Jesus promised us the His Holy Spirit, whose presence protects us from temptation and sin and gives us the enablement to follow Jesus and serve His purpose. **Read John 14:7-8 NLT**

- He promised an overflowing presence of His Spirit. **Read John 7:38-39 NLT**

Conclusion:

Not a single verse or promise of God's goodness to His sheep in Psalm 23 will ever fail. In fact, God's goodness and love will continually pursue us throughout our lives. This verse reassures us of His constant care—both now and for eternity. He is the one who pursues more than being pursued.

"The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. 11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep." John 10:10-11 NLT

*If you've already received Jesus as your Lord and Savior, He is now your **Good Shepherd**, and He promises to lead you into the fullness of God's goodness.*

But if you haven't yet made that decision, you remain lost and vulnerable, missing out on the life God desires for you.

Today is the best day to entrust your life to His loving care. Would you like to give your heart to Jesus in prayer today?

WORK(15 MINS)

Application

1. Find a partner. Ask what you can pray for him/her then pray for each other.
2. Pray and prepare a Hit List (max. of 5-10 names of family, relatives, friends, schoolmates, workmates, neighbors, etc.) of possible people you desire to invite in the next life group gathering.