

# GOODNESS *of* GOD

## The Lord as Our Good Shepherd (p1)

JULY 27, 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: Ask the group. Which is easier to take care of as a pet, a dog, a parrot or a sheep? Why did you say so?**

### WORD(30-45 MINS)

**Main Text: Read Psalm 23 - The Lord is My Shepherd**

**Intro:** Psalm 23 was written by David, who was a shepherd, yet he speaks from the viewpoint of a sheep. Though he understood both roles, he chose to speak from the sheep's perspective, having God as his Shepherd, which was something personal to David. The Bible frequently compares humans to sheep, emphasizing our tendency to go astray, our need for guidance, and God's role as our Shepherd. This sheep-shepherd comparison is found across both the Old and New Testaments, at least 40 times either directly or by clear metaphor.

As we walk through the well-known Psalm 23, verse by verse, we'll discover the goodness of God toward those who choose to follow Jesus as their Shepherd.

**Here's how Psalm 23 reveals the goodness of God as the Good Shepherd:**

#### 1. God provides (v.1) *"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want."*

God's goodness is seen in how He meets all our needs, physical, emotional, and spiritual. The phrase **"I shall not want"** speaks of total satisfaction and trust in God's provision. Christ is our Good Shepherd. Jesus said, **"I am the good shepherd."** John 10:11 NLT In Christ, God promises to provide for ALL our needs - **"And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus."** Philippians 4:19

**Q: Have you ever been "in want" that resulted to a miraculous provision from God? Share us your story?**

**Q: How can we encourage people to see that God is able to provide for all their needs through faith in Christ?**

#### 2. God gives rest and refreshment (v.2) *"He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters."*

Like a shepherd leading his sheep to a place of rest and nourishment, God brings peace and renewal to our weary souls. His goodness is shown in His care for our rest and well-being. In Christ alone, can we find true rest for our weary souls.

"Then Jesus said, **"Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls."** Matthew 11:28-29 NLT

**Q: When was the last time you needed God's rest, to be still and know that He is God?**

**Q: In what area of your life did you see the Lord refresh you in the past months (mentally, emotionally, spiritually, financially, etc.)?**

#### 3. God restores and guides - (v.3) *"He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake."*

The Good Shepherd doesn't just provide materially. He also revives our hearts and keeps us on the right path.

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 to shepherd His sheep and give us abundant life even in the midst of spiritual threats - **"The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life."**

John 10:10 NLT

Oil symbolizes protection against flies and irritants that torment sheep. And Overflowing cup symbolizes abundance, care, joy, even in difficulty

**Read John 14:7-8 NLT, John 7:38-39 NLT**

#### Conclusion:

*God's goodness is unfailing- (v.6) "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."*

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.

**"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep."**

John 10:11 NKJV

### 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.