

Daily Devotions – week of 1/26/20:

Day #1 1-27-20: Read Psalms 23

Dear God, open my mind and my heart as I reflect upon Your Word in Psalms 23. Amen.

The words of Psalms 23 were written by the young King David as he reflected upon his family's vocation of being shepherds.

David uses the metaphor of a good shepherd to describe the attributes of God that he has experienced in his life. David sees God as the shepherd and himself as the sheep.

As you read Psalms 23, what attributes of the good shepherd mean the most to you? What attributes of God do you want to experience more fully and completely? I encourage you to ask God to be the shepherd of your life and to ask God for help being a sheep in his flock.

Dear God, thank you for being my good shepherd. Thank you for providing for me, protecting me and tending me. God, I look to you today to be my shepherd ... to guide me and help me throughout this day. In Jesus Name I pray, AMEN.

Day #2 1-28-20: Read John 10:1-17

Dear God, please reveal to me a need in my life that I may trust you more. Amen

Who is the shepherd of your life?

In John 10 verses 1-17 Jesus describes himself as the good shepherd that guards and protects all who believe in him as a shepherd guards and protects their sheep.

Do you know Jesus as your good shepherd? Do you hear his voice? And Do you respond accordingly?

I encourage you today to take periodic breaks in your activities and ask Jesus to speak to you.

Dear God, I open my life today to the protection of Jesus as my protector and provider. Today I turn my need for _____ to you for your care. I trust that you will show me the way and I pray for the ability to follow you. In Jesus name, AMEN

Day #3 1-29-20 Read Psalms 23

Reflect upon the life of a shepherd and a sheep. In many ways the life of a shepherd and sheep is a life of journey and pilgrimage.

I encourage you to reflect upon your life as a journey guided by God.

Pray that God will help you on life's journey and that you will look for His guiding hand and movement in your life.

Dear God, as your rod and staff guide me ... stopping me from things that may hurt me and helping me to do and say things that will better my life and the life of those closest to me. I look to you today to be my good shepherd who will not hurt me but enable me AND no matter what, you will never leave me nor forget me. THANK YOU GOD. IN Jesus name, AMEN.

Day #4 Read Psalms 23.

A sheep cannot sleep if the sheep is overcome with FEAR, FRICTION & conflicts with other sheep, PREDATORS & PARASITES, and HUNGER.

Do you have any fears, conflicts, predators, parasites that are interrupting your rest and your peace?

Is your body, your mind or your soul crying out of hunger and need for more rest & for more nourishment?

Lift these concerns to God for His help and direction that you might put them to rest SO THAT you might rest with the peace and courage of God around you.

Dear God, the 23rd Psalm reminds me that you offer me a dwelling that is safe and that protects me. As I imagine dwelling in your house, I leave at the door those things that wear me down ... I leave at your door all of my fears, all of my conflicts, all the predators and parasites of life that pester me and tire me ... and God, I look forward to being nourished at your table ... the anointing of your divine oil that will renew my soul, my body, and my mind. That I may be refreshed in your presence, even in the midst of my enemies. In Jesus name, AMEN

Day #5 Read Matthew 11:28-30

Sunday's sermon will challenge us to consider what it means to be "whole".

DO you want to be whole?

What is the ONE THING that needs to be in place for us to travel life's journey with wholeness? And how do we get it? How do we grow to become the people that we want to be and become?

As you prepare for Sunday's church service ask God for help coping with the 'rat race of life'. Ask think what 2 or 3 things may be holding you back from the life you want to live AND the life that God invites you to live in His care.

Dear God, please help to think and to examine my life in a way that I might better practice the life you invite us to live in your care. Prepare me for worship on Sunday. IN Jesus name I pray, AMEN.