

“And I Shall Dwell in the House of the Lord, Forever...”

Workbook

Day One

Appropriately, we close this study with the sheep returning home. As you read these passages, think about the ways you define “home”.

1. How do you define “home”? What pictures come to mind? What feelings? Memories? Write down anything that comes to mind When you hear the word “home.”_____

2. Read and journal

Psalm 84:10

Psalm 122:1

Joy and fellowship are two common responses to the thought of going home. What did David equate with Joy and Fellowship?

Is home about a location ? _____

What makes "home" home? _____

How often do you spend time anticipating being "home" with the Shepherd? Why ? _____

What does the term "home with the Shepherd" mean to you? _____

Now, where does the Shepherd live, right now? _____

Do you have to "wait" to be at "home with the Lord"? _____

3. "Home" generally means family. What would home be without family? _____

As christians, who is your family? _____

How does your church family compare to your family reunions?

Write a prayer thanking God for the gift of "home" (both of them). Thank Him for the love, comfort, encouragement...that "home" provides. Ask for a fresh vision and heart for the hope and joy of a home with the shepherd forever. Spend time praising Him for all the benefits you have through Him as your "home". Write down anything He shows you during this time spent with Him.

Day Two

As we close this study , I return to my original desire for you, that this Psalm becomes YOUR Psalm.

Read and journal

Psalm 136

Psalm 145

You have only one assignment for today. Please take time to pray and reflect on all you have learned through this Bible Study, maybe look back over your Shepherd/Sheep grid, and then write your own "Psalm". Specifically recount the ways He has been your personal shepherd, times He has provided, ways He has healed, valleys He has led you through... Think of this as your love letter to Him, thanking and praising Him for all He is to you as your Shepherd.

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For your prayer time today, read your Psalm to Him, aloud. Consider closing your time by singing a hymn that best expresses your feelings for Him. When you have finished, write down how you felt before, during and after this time.

[illegible]

Day Three

1. Read and journal

Ps 27:4

Titus 1:2

I John 2:25

David chose to close the 23rd Psalm rejoicing in the fact that he would spend forever in the house of the Lord. It was his goal, his motivator and what he was living for. Is eternity something you meditate on regularly? Does it motivate you? Does it excite you? How would meditating on the promise of an eternity with your Shepherd change your perspective? _____

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2. Let's look at this from the other side, how does your awareness of eternity impact your sense of urgency to reach the lost?

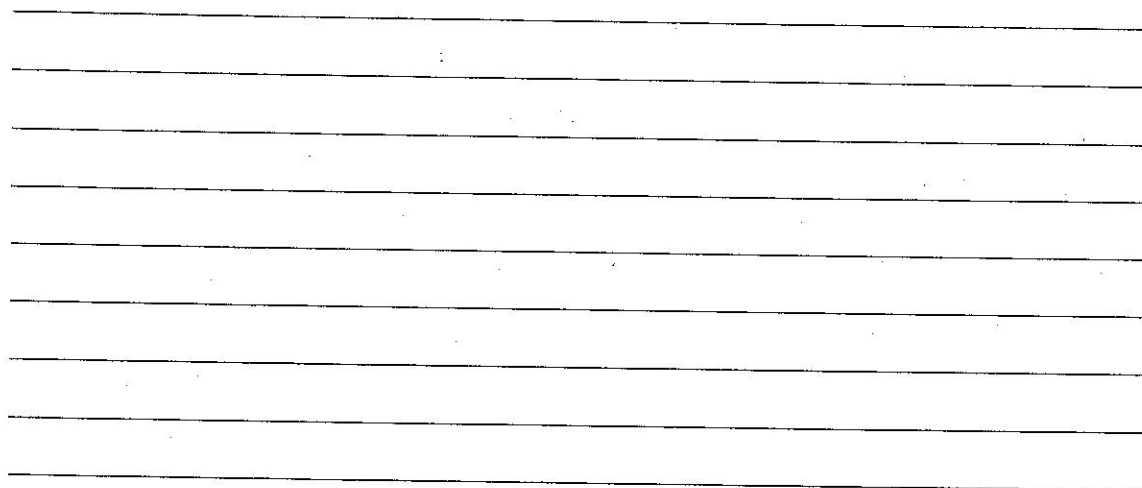
Think about what we have learned about the responsibility that blessing creates. What responsibility do you feel to reach as many souls as you can with this promise of eternal life? _____

What are you doing to reach as many as you can? What are some specific ways you could reach more? _____

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this passage? _____

3. How does meditating on “dwelling in the house of the Lord forever” change the way we look at present suffering or sacrifice? _____

Write a prayer thanking God for the assurance of an eternity in His house. tell Him what it means to you and ask Him for a greater burden and sense of urgency to reach a lost and dying world. Ask Him to show you how He would like to use you to reach out to those He has placed within your reach. Confess any fear or hesitancy you may have allowed to hold you back from speaking boldly about eternity to others. Ask for the grace and boldness to actively seek to share your faith every time He opens a door. Write down what He shows you during this time and write down the name of anyone He specifically lays on your heart as you are praying.



Day Four

1. We began this study by focusing on the statement "The Lord is My Shepherd", look back at your workbook entries and shepherd/sheep grid and write down how the meaning of that phrase has grown through this 12 week study. _____

2. Look back over your workbook and list each commitment you have during the closing prayers.

[illegible]

3. How have the Holy Spirit worked through these to adjust your heart/mind/behaviors...? Which ones had you forgotten? Which ones do you still need to be actively praying about? _____

[illegible]

4. Read and journal

Isaiah 55:11

Why did the Shepherd lead you to this Bible Study on the 23rd Psalm? What did He have to show you about Who He is? What did He have to show you about yourself? What burden has He laid on your heart about how He wants to specifically use you to reach out to others? How has His word “accomplished His purposes” in your life through these last 12 weeks? _____

1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.

2. Once the problem is identified, the next step is to define the objectives and goals of the project. This helps to clarify what needs to be achieved and provides a clear direction for the team.

3. The third step is to develop a plan or strategy to address the problem. This involves breaking down the problem into smaller, manageable tasks and determining the resources needed to complete them.

4. The fourth step is to implement the plan. This involves putting the strategy into action and monitoring progress to ensure that the project is on track.

5. Finally, the fifth step is to evaluate the results of the project. This involves assessing the outcomes against the objectives and goals to determine the effectiveness of the intervention.

Write a prayer thanking and praising God for the gift of His word and the counsel of the Holy Spirit. Thank Him for the things He has specifically taught you through the 23rd Psalm. Ask Him to continue to bring these things to your mind and heart and Him to continue to use it to draw you to Him. Commit to following through on all that He has laid on your heart and to reaching out in the ways that He leads you. Close by praising Him for all the ways He has revealed Himself to you through this study. _____

Day Five

What a journey we have shared as we have trekked together, at the side of the shepherd and seen inside the world David knew. The goal for us was to have a deeper understanding (and therefore appreciation) of all David was trying to teach us about the ways of His Shepherd and the life of his sheep. It seems fitting that in summation we should now take time to write the 23rd Psalm in our own words, our own examples and our own declarations of our faith in our Shepherd.

Take it a phrase at a time and write your own, personal 23rd Psalm.

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As this study closes write a prayer of thanksgiving and praise for all that you have in Christ as your Shepherd. Thank Him for all He has shown you through this study and ask Him for the grace and wisdom to follow through on the commitments you have made to Him during this time.

I just want to take a moment here to thank each of you for your faithfulness and your encouragement. It is such a blessing and joy to be able to share these studies with you and each one of you are a vital part of this process. Your prayers, words of encouragement and commitment to these studies mean more to me than I can even begin to express. Please be in prayer about what God has in store for us when we resume and ask Him to show you someone you could invite. May God bless you and sanctify you that you might glorify Him.

"The Family of God"

I'm so glad I'm a part of the Family of God,
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,
For I'm part of the family,
The Family of God.

You will notice we say "brother and sister" 'round here,
It's because we're a family and these are so near;
When one has a heartache, we all share the tears,
And rejoice in each victory in this family so dear.

I'm so glad I'm a part of the Family of God,
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,
For I'm part of the family,
The Family of God.

From the door of an orphanage to the house of the King,
No longer an outcast, a new song I sing;
From rags unto riches, from the weak to the strong,
I'm not worthy to be here, but praise God I belong!

I'm so glad I'm a part of the Family of God,
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His Blood!
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,
For I'm part of the family,
The Family of God