



# Lent Devotional Plan

Adapted from Deron Spoo's  
"The **Good** Book"

# For Families

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You will find a family specific devotional at the end of each booklet. Please choose whatever day and time to do them with your family (*over a meal, before they sleep, etc.*).



There is no specific day that each devotional corresponds with. **All devotionals have been tailored to be relevant for your children.**



# *week three*

Job 1

Psalms 23

Psalms 51

Psalms 139

Proverbs 1

Isaiah 53



# Job 1

1 There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. 2 There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. 3 He possessed 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 female donkeys, and very many servants, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east. 4 His sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. 5 And when the days of the feast had run their course, Job would send and consecrate them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my children have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did continually.

6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. 7 The Lord said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." 8 And the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?" 9 Then Satan answered the Lord and said, "Does Job fear God for no reason? 10 Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. 11 But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face." 12 And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand." So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

13 Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, 14 and there came a messenger to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, 15 and the Sabeans fell upon them and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you." 16 While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to tell you." 17 While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "The Chaldeans formed three groups and made a raid on the camels and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you." 18 While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, 19 and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you."

20 Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. 21 And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

22 In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

# 11 | Making Sense of Your Suffering



Why do we suffer? Some will call the book of Job the theology of suffering. This is the question Job wrestles with. Perhaps a question that many of us have heard and even struggle to answer is, Why does God allow suffering? Why does he allow bad things to happen to good people? For many of us this becomes a stumbling block for our faith. What's interesting is that in the entire 42 chapters, God doesn't answer the question.

Instead as Job continues on his journey, he hears many rational answers from his friends. One friend argues that Job had some hidden sin in his heart. Another argues that no one is truly good in the eyes of God. All of us deserve punishment. And like these friends, many of us try to reason our way of understanding suffering. We try to answer with Christian platitudes, such as "God is using this suffering for your good and His glory." And yet, we don't find any comfort or peace in such responses. Perhaps suffering is one of the mysteries only privy to God's divine understanding.

But here's what we do see in the story of Job. The nature of Job's question begins to shift. The question is no longer about "Why does God allow suffering or why is this happening to me?" Instead, you find that he begins to ask "Who are you, God? Where are you? Are you here with me?" In Job 19, he calls out to God as His Redeemer. That though he suffers, surely he knows His redeemer lives. And as you read Job, you see that what Job suffers the most with is not the physical pain or loss, but what he suffers the most with is that he feels abandoned by even God Himself.

And it's here God answers Job. It wasn't a logic-proof answer, it wasn't some eloquent response, but it was His presence. Because here's what we learn. More than fixing Job's problems, God is far more interested in revealing Himself to Job. We often think having an answer to our suffering will help us heal and recover. However, experience will tell us otherwise. When dealing with some sort of loss, what is far more effective than a reason for it, is the presence of simply being there with one another. Someone to grieve and lament the loss. As Deron Spoo writes, "presence is powerful, more powerful than an answer." For in his presence, Job learned that even though he didn't have a clear answer, he could put his trust in the Lord.

## Reflection

Henri Nouwen once wrote, "The emptiness of the past and the future can never be filled with words but only by the presence of a man. Because only then can the hope be born, that there might be at least one exception to the 'nobody and nothing' of his complaint—a hope that will make him whisper, 'Maybe, after all, someone is waiting for me.' Perhaps we may be struggling to find the answer to our suffering. Instead of looking for an answer, ask Him to reveal His presence to you. That though He gives and takes away, blessed be the name of the Lord.

Being present for one another can be if not the most powerful way to be there for one another. When you hear somebody suffering, what is your response? More than the words or even the things we can do for one another, how can we simply be present with one another?

adapted from Deron Spoo's "The Good Book"

# Psalm 23

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures.  
He leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He restores my soul.  
He leads me in paths of righteousness  
for his name's sake.
- 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the  
shadow of death, I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.
- 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
forever.

# 12 | Forget the Funeral, This is Life!



Psalm 23 is often recited at funerals. We pair this psalm with passing away. We assume this psalm is about death, but instead life welcomes us—pure, joyful, boundless life.

"The LORD is my shepherd" (v. 1). We can imagine that on one long day in some nondescript desert, David made a mental leap, connecting his occupation to the care of God. Just as David served as the protector of his sheep, God serves as the provider of care and compassion for his people. Sheep are unable to provide for themselves. Using this picture of utter helplessness, Psalm 23 gives particulars on how God provides for his people.

God provides resources. "I have what I need" (v.1). God is the giver of all good things—emotionally, physically, spiritually, mentally, and relationally. The apostle Peter agreed when he wrote, "His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness" (2 Pet. 1:3). If we lack any resources, we're encouraged to ask God.

God provides rescue. "Your rod and your staff—they comfort me" (v. 4). Shepherds are equipped with a club-shaped weapon called a rod to protect the sheep. In a world of predators, it seems we need the protection of God more than ever. God often provides rescue for his people, whether from circumstances of our own making or from situations that are no fault of our own.

God provides restoration. "He renews my life" (v. 3). Life is exhausting. Life promotes weariness. Whether it's the difficulties of our job, the challenge of raising children, or a critic who is never satisfied with our best efforts, life has a way of wearing us down and whittling at our efforts. No matter how much life dings or damages us, we're never beyond God's restorative reach.

God provides righteousness. "He leads me along the right paths [paths of righteousness] for his name's sake" (v. 3). In the simplest terms, the word righteousness means "to be in the right relationship" with another person.

How do we remain in the right relationship with God? One thing is sure: we don't have to guess. God guides. "He leads me along the right paths for his name's sake" (v. 3). Ultimately, God the Father leads us to his Son, Jesus. It is Jesus who equips us—through his death, burial, and resurrection—to relate rightly to God. God himself provides righteousness—the right relationship with himself through Jesus.

## Reflection

Isaia 53:6 captures the shepherd-sheep relationship when it says, "We all went astray like sheep; we all have turned to our own way; and the Lord has punished him for the iniquity of us all." God's ultimate provision for our sinful straying is the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Jesus himself is our resource, rescue, restoration, and righteousness.

Have you allowed Jesus to bring you into a restored, right relationship with God or are you still trying to do it all on your own? What evidence can you provide to support your answer? Righteousness in Jesus comes when we stop trying and begin trusting.

adapted from Deron Spoo's "The Good Book"

# Psalm 51

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.
- 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin!
- 3 For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you may be justified in your words  
and blameless in your judgment.
- 5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,  
and in sin did my mother conceive me.
- 6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,  
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.
- 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- 8 Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.
- 9 Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.
- 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.
- 11 Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with a willing spirit.
- 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will return to you.
- 14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,  
O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will sing aloud of your  
righteousness.
- 15 O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.
- 16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would  
give it;  
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.
- 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will  
not despise.
- 18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;  
build up the walls of Jerusalem;
- 19 then will you delight in right sacrifices,  
in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;  
then bulls will be offered on your altar.



# 13 | Guilty but at Peace



In Psalm 51, David demonstrates how to pray in repentance. He was just rebuked by the prophet Nathan after committing adultery with Bathsheba and killing her husband, Uriah. David comes before the Lord to confess his sin and ask for forgiveness. What can we learn from David's prayer for our own journey with sin and redemption?

David starts by appealing to God to have mercy on him (v1). He understands that God is the ultimate judge and executor of justice and realizes God's great power. But God is also loving and merciful, and He takes the time to listen to us even in our darkest moments. We just need to be vulnerable and come to Him.

Next, David confesses his sin. He knows what he did. He owns up to what he has done against the Lord (v4). We are all sinners (Romans 3:23). We are inherently evil. David does not excuse what he has done or try to justify his actions. He understands the consequences of his actions and that God is perfectly just in how he executes his justice.

Then, David comes to repentance. He asks for forgiveness and to be cleansed of his sin. He doesn't try to do this of his own accord by trying to do better or work harder. David knows that forgiveness comes from the Lord. Only God can transform our hearts and lead us back to Him (v10). At the end of the day, David realizes that seeking the Lord and being in His presence is the ultimate reward. The temporary pleasures of this world that cause us to sin are nothing in comparison to His great glory.

David completes his journey of repentance in praise. God's deepest desire is for our hearts - to love and to glorify Him. In David's great joy and praise, he wants to show others God's redemptive power to save and forgive (v13). David starts this prayer in a place of deep sorrow and sadness for displeasing God but comes out with an overwhelming peace that results in love and praise for Our God.

## Reflection

What is God asking you to confess to Him today? God knows us deeply and knows our hearts. He wants us to be vulnerable. What have we been hiding? Are we too ashamed of our actions? Are we making excuses or justifying our actions?

Come clean so that God can wash us in His grace and mercy. Holding out only makes it harder for us to come fully into His presence.

# Psalm 139

- 1 O Lord, you have searched me and known me!
- 2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 3 You search out my path and my lying down  
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 4 Even before a word is on my tongue,  
behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.
- 5 You hem me in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.
- 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is high; I cannot attain it.
- 7 Where shall I go from your Spirit?  
Or where shall I flee from your presence?
- 8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there!  
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!
- 9 If I take the wings of the morning  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 10 even there your hand shall lead me,  
and your right hand shall hold me.
- 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,  
and the light about me be night,"
- 12 even the darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is bright as the day,  
for darkness is as light with you.
- 13 For you formed my inward parts;  
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
- 14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully  
made.  
Wonderful are your works;  
my soul knows it very well.
- 15 My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret,  
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
- 16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance;  
in your book were written, every one of them,  
the days that were formed for me,  
when as yet there was none of them.
- 17 How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!
- 18 If I would count them, they are more than the  
sand.  
I awake, and I am still with you.
- 19 Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God!  
O men of blood, depart from me!
- 20 They speak against you with malicious intent;  
your enemies take your name in vain.
- 21 Do I not hate those who hate you, O Lord?  
And do I not loathe those who rise up against  
you?
- 22 I hate them with complete hatred;  
I count them my enemies.
- 23 Search me, O God, and know my heart!  
Try me and know my thoughts!
- 24 And see if there be any grievous way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting!

# 14 | God Is Closer Than You Think



Psalm 139 examines not only the miracle of the human body but also the majesty of God's love for humanity. Love, as we all know, brings out the best parts of our personalities. As Psalm 139 unveils God's love for us, the richest regions of his character are also revealed.

God is all knowing (vv. 1-6). "Lord, you have searched me and known me" (v. 1). We fear that knowing someone completely may lead to boredom. But God assures us that his full knowledge of us isn't only an expression of his love but also results in an ever-deepening affection.

It's worth recognizing that God's intimate awareness of our identity and actions doesn't negate our freedom of choice. At the same time, our freedom to choose doesn't diminish God's perfect knowledge of who we are. He is all knowing yet ever allows us to determine the direction and decision of our lives.

God is ever present (vv. 7-12). "Where can I go to escape your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?" v. 7. Psalm 139 leads us to the inescapable conclusion that God himself is inescapable. At times we're unable to sense his presence. This failure to feel his nearness may result from circumstances beyond our own control. The death of a loved one comes to mind. In this dark time, God's presence may be difficult to sense. For the most part, feelings of estrangement from the Almighty are just that—feelings. The promise of scripture is grounded in the fact that God is ever present.

God is all seeing (vv. 13-18). "My bones were not hidden from you when I was made in secret... Your eyes saw me when I was formless; all my days were written in your book and planned before a single one of them began." (vv. 15-16). Your heavenly Father's watchfulness is an expression of intense love. His love is intimate and infinite. His care is deeper than you can imagine and larger than you'll ever know. No one cares for you as he does. No one can and no one will. No one.

Psalm 139 concludes with the beautiful prayer acknowledging God's never-ending desire for our development: "Search me. God. and know my heart; test me and know my concerns. See if there is any offensive way in me; lead me in the everlasting way" (vv. 23-24).

## Reflection

The book of Psalm contains 150 different prayers. For centuries, monks have gathered in their communities for morning prayer. Tradition holds that the first prayer of the day is Psalm 70:1: "God, hurry to rescue me. Lord, hurry to help me!" What a wonderful prayer with which to meet each morning!

In what area of your life—perhaps a relationship, your job, or financial stress—do you need God's help? Name it before him today. Ask for relief. Ask God to provide you with refuge—the safety that comes from knowing that you're never out of his loving sight of separated from his watchful protection.

adapted from Deron Spoo's "The Good Book"

# Proverbs 1

- 1 The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel:
- 2 To know wisdom and instruction,  
to understand words of insight,
- 3 to receive instruction in wise dealing,  
in righteousness, justice, and equity;
- 4 to give prudence to the simple,  
knowledge and discretion to the youth—
- 5 Let the wise hear and increase in learning,  
and the one who understands obtain guidance,
- 6 to understand a proverb and a saying,  
the words of the wise and their riddles.
- 7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of  
knowledge;  
fools despise wisdom and instruction.
- 8 Hear, my son, your father's instruction,  
and forsake not your mother's teaching,
- 9 for they are a graceful garland for your head  
and pendants for your neck.
- 10 My son, if sinners entice you,  
do not consent.
- 11 If they say, "Come with us, let us lie in wait for  
blood;  
let us ambush the innocent without reason;
- 12 like Sheol let us swallow them alive,  
and whole, like those who go down to the pit;
- 13 we shall find all precious goods,  
we shall fill our houses with plunder;
- 14 throw in your lot among us;  
we will all have one purse"—
- 15 my son, do not walk in the way with them;  
hold back your foot from their paths,
- 16 for their feet run to evil,  
and they make haste to shed blood.
- 17 For in vain is a net spread  
in the sight of any bird,
- 18 but these men lie in wait for their own blood;  
they set an ambush for their own lives.
- 19 Such are the ways of everyone who is greedy for  
unjust gain;  
it takes away the life of its possessors.
- 20 Wisdom cries aloud in the street,  
in the markets she raises her voice;
- 21 at the head of the noisy streets she cries out;  
at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:
- 22 "How long, O simple ones, will you love being  
simple?  
How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing  
and fools hate knowledge?
- 23 If you turn at my reproof,  
behold, I will pour out my spirit to you;  
I will make my words known to you.
- 24 Because I have called and you refused to listen,  
have stretched out my hand and no one has  
heeded,
- 25 because you have ignored all my counsel  
and would have none of my reproof,
- 26 I also will laugh at your calamity;  
I will mock when terror strikes you,
- 27 when terror strikes you like a storm  
and your calamity comes like a whirlwind,  
when distress and anguish come upon you.
- 28 Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;  
they will seek me diligently but will not find me.
- 29 Because they hated knowledge  
and did not choose the fear of the Lord,
- 30 would have none of my counsel  
and despised all my reproof,
- 31 therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way,  
and have their fill of their own devices.
- 32 For the simple are killed by their turning away,  
and the complacency of fools destroys them;
- 33 but whoever listens to me will dwell secure  
and will be at ease, without dread of disaster."

# 15 | Words of Wisdom



One word summarizes the book of Proverbs: wisdom. One of the great lessons of life is learning the difference between what feels right and what is right. The book of Proverbs, like the rest of the Bible, points us in the correction direction. Proverbs helps us understand and apply God's will, which is true north for followers of Jesus.

Oscar Wilde once said, "Experience is the name everyone gives to their mistakes." So the choice before us is an obvious one. We can learn from our own mistakes, or we can choose to learn from the mistakes of others. The difference between the two options is that of personal cost.

The book of Proverbs serves as a reliable and readable mentor. Though not a living, breathing person, Proverbs preserves the best thinking and the highest learning of great leaders. (Solomon, renowned for his wisdom, did the heavy lifting in this volume.)

Proverbs 1:7, a well-known line, is the source of some confusion. It says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and discipline." We must take great care in understanding the phrase "the fear of the Lord." On the surface it seems to suggest that we should be afraid of God. However, emotionally speaking, we know that fear has a way of limiting instead of unleashing. Fear holds us captive instead of setting us free. It's impossible to completely love someone we consciously fear.

In the Hebrew sense of the word, fear is best understood as a "reverent awe" or "ultimate respect." God doesn't desire that we dread him; he asks that we have greater respect for him than anything else in our lives. Proverbs 1:7 teaches that only as we hold God and his commands in high regard do we see the great importance of our decision. Life is a gift from our Creator to be handled with great care. The caliber of relationship with God is the starting place for wise and smart living.

We require wisdom. For the Jesus follower, the book of Proverbs can serve as a reliable instrument panel. And we must learn to read it. The wisdom of God in its pages can be relied on for necessary course corrections in life.

## Reflection

The most popular passage in Proverbs is "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; in all your ways know him, and he will make your paths straight" (3:5-6). This verse is displayed prominently in my study, a reminder of my need for God's wisdom, given my inability to navigate life on feelings alone.

In what area of your life do you need wisdom? At work? At home? In traffic? Write proverbs 3:5-6 on a card, and display it in a strategic place as a reminder of your need for God's guidance.



# Isaiah 53

- 1 Who has believed what he has heard from us?  
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
- 2 For he grew up before him like a young plant,  
and like a root out of dry ground;  
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,  
and no beauty that we should desire him.
- 3 He was despised and rejected by men,  
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;  
and as one from whom men hide their faces  
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
- 4 Surely he has borne our griefs  
and carried our sorrows;  
yet we esteemed him stricken,  
smitten by God, and afflicted.
- 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions;  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,  
and with his wounds we are healed.
- 6 All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have turned—every one—to his own way;  
and the Lord has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.
- 7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,  
yet he opened not his mouth;  
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,  
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,  
so he opened not his mouth.
- 8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away;  
and as for his generation, who considered  
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,  
stricken for the transgression of my people?
- 9 And they made his grave with the wicked  
and with a rich man in his death,  
although he had done no violence,  
and there was no deceit in his mouth.
- 10 Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him;  
he has put him to grief;  
when his soul makes an offering for guilt,  
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;  
the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.
- 11 Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and  
be satisfied;  
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my  
servant,  
make many to be accounted righteous,  
and he shall bear their iniquities.
- 12 Therefore I will divide him a portion with the  
many,  
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,  
because he poured out his soul to death  
and was numbered with the transgressors;  
yet he bore the sin of many,  
and makes intercession for the transgressors.

# 16 | The Real Face of Jesus



We are taken to the book of Isaiah. He is one of the prophets whose stories are told in the latter part of the Old Testament. There are 16 books of prophecy split into Major and Minor prophets that were dealt mainly by the length of their books, for all of their messages carry equal weight and importance. We often assume prophets as those who tell the future, but as we see from many of the Biblical, they speak truth into the current events of their times.

This passage paints a very vivid image through its style and detail. Even though Isaiah wrote this passage 700 years before Jesus, it's hard to imagine he is writing about anyone other than Jesus. One area this chapter seems to skim over is Jesus' physical appearance (v2-3). In contrast to today's modern culture of worrying about appearance, the Bible goes into very little detail about His looks.

The chapter flows through Jesus' journey to the cross (v3-5), his burial (v9-10), finishing with the resurrection (v11-12):

Through the crucifixion, we can find peace knowing he was pierced for our iniquities. "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Cor 5:21) Sin is death and God put Jesus to death, the one man who knew no sin, so that we could all be made righteous before God. His love was written in Jesus' blood on the cross.

No one expected for Jesus to die, so they made no plans for his death. He was buried in the rich man's tomb of Joseph of Arimathea (Matthew 27). Laid to rest for what people had thought would be the last time.

But all of the Gospels end their accounts with the Resurrection. He appeared to Mary and the disciples. He was there then and He is still with us today.

## Reflection

"All of us went astray like sheep; all of us have turned our own way; and the LORD has punished him for the iniquity of all of us." Isaiah 53:6

"The righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all of us who believe. For there is no distinction: for all of us have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all of us are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus," Romans 3:22-24

All of us have wandered away from God. All of us are eligible for forgiveness. It is freely given to those who believe in Jesus.

How have you strayed from God? How have you fallen short in sin? Take some time today to reflect on how much you have been forgiven and how gracious God is.

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# Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
he leads me beside quiet waters,

3 he refreshes my soul.  
He guides me along the right paths  
for his name's sake.

4 Even though I walk  
through the darkest valley,  
I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.





## Everything We Need

In the bible, we learn about the life of King David. Before becoming a king, David had a special job to take care of sheep. In other words, he was a shepherd. In today's bible passage, we get to read from King David's psalm while learning more about who God is.

In verse 1, David starts by saying, "The Lord is my shepherd."

What does it mean for God to be our shepherd? Well, it's simple! God is the one to take care of us. He helps us, leads us, and teaches us how to follow Him.

We don't need to do things alone. We can always ask God to help us. He is our shepherd!

Verse 1 doesn't end there too! David finishes the verse by saying, "I lack nothing." In other words, "I have what I need." At the end of the day, we have everything we need and that is because we have God! Because God is our shepherd, we can trust that we don't lack anything. All we need to do is love God and trust in Him to provide for all of our needs.

### Reflection/Prayer

1. What does it mean for God to be your shepherd?

2. How can you trust God as the shepherd of your life?

3. What do you think about God being everything you need? Share with your family.

Prayer: "Dear God, thank you for loving and guiding us as our kind shepherd. Help us to be thankful for

who you are in our lives. We have everything we need in this life because we have you."