



The Shepherd Robert Morris

Focus As our shepherd, Jesus gives us what we need by providing for us and protecting us. When we realize this, we can be at peace. The more time we spend with Jesus, the better we will recognize His voice. A shepherd never drives his sheep, but gently leads them. It is important to stay right at our Shepherd's side because Satan fears Jesus. When we follow Jesus, goodness, mercy, and eternal life will follow us.

Fun As a child, did you ever play follow the leader? If so, who did you play it with? What did you like to do most when you were the leader?

Review Key Scriptures: John 10; Psalm 23

The Bible depicts the church as a family, fellowship, and flock. We are His sheep, and He is our Shepherd (Psalm 100:3).

1. He provides.

Psalm 23:1–3

When we recognize the Lord as our Shepherd, He sees that we lack nothing. He wants to provide our needs.

1. He makes.

Sometimes Jesus has to make us lie down beside still waters because that is where we will find genuine peace and contentment.

2. He restores.

Jesus restores our soul when it has been crushed by life's experiences.

3. He leads.

We must follow Jesus. He leads us to paths of righteousness and to a right relationship to God.

2. He protects.

Psalm 23:4–5

Jesus destroyed what we fear most—death. Since Jesus is with us, He gives us the ability to live our lives free from fear.

1. He is with us in the battle.

Jesus carries a rod and staff but not to use on us. He uses it to pound Satan. Satan is afraid of our Shepherd!

2. He blesses us in the battle.

There may be enemies all around us, but He spreads out a fine linen cloth and we dine before them. Sometimes He calms the storm around us, helps us walk through it, or calms us.

3. He refreshes us in the battle.

There are times when we are required to rest, even when we don't think we need to be refreshed. Jesus anoints our heads with oil until it is overflowing and running over.

3. He promises.

Psalm 23:6

Jesus promises to provide and protect us. He also promises that these three things will follow us all the days of our lives:

1. **Goodness**
2. **Mercy**
3. **Eternal life**

Group Dynamics Idea Make arrangements to serve communion this week or at one of your upcoming group gatherings. Use matzo crackers or cut a bread slice into small squares. Purchase a bottle of grape juice to represent wine during this ceremony. Sharing communion together strengthens your relationship with the Lord and with each other. We eat the bread in remembrance of Christ's body given for us, and we drink the juice in remembrance of His blood being shed for us.

Discuss

1. Read John 10:10–13. Who is the thief and the wolf? What is the difference between the shepherd and the hireling? Which one would you want responsible for leading you?
2. We read in John 10:14 that the shepherd knows his sheep, just as they know him. As a believer, when did you first recognize Jesus as your Shepherd?
3. Review Psalm 23. How can we avoid falling prey to the wolf?

4. Pastor Robert described Psalm 23 as being “All this and eternity, too.” What is the most comforting promise to you from this psalm? Why?
5. As our substitute, what did Jesus promise us? 1 John 2:25
6. What is the prophetic significance of Ezekiel 34:12?

Take Home

- Jesus is our good shepherd, and we are His sheep.
- All that we need He provides.
- He strengthens us when we rest in Him.
- Jesus is with us in battle.
- He restores our soul.
- We will find peace and contentment as believers in Christ.
- Because we follow Him, goodness, mercy, and eternal life will follow us!

Prayer

I come to You as my good Shepherd. Forgive me for my sins. Restore and refresh me, Lord. I will not fear, for You are standing alongside me. I am Yours and will follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name, Amen!

New Leader Tip When a new person visits, be sure to send a follow-up welcome by email, by sending a card, or by phone. It is always nice when someone acknowledges our presence.