

LIVING

IN

GOD'S

GOODNESS

PSALM 23

TIPS TO A SUCCESSFUL GROUP

- **MOTHERS DAY TIP:** Be respectful, be kind and be compassionate to the various relationships and emotions associated with Mothers Day. Do not assume how others should feel, listen and point to Christ for comfort and guidance.

Week 5: Our Host and Redeemer

ICEBREAKER

What was one of the best dining experiences you've had with great service?

INTRODUCTION

Last week we discussed the valleys that come in life and some reasons we can take comfort in Christ to lead us through the bad. Now we are ready to focus on what God wants to do to prepare us to live in His goodness for the rest of our lives. God wants us to feel secure in our position at His table. To do that, he wants to redeem us through his blessing Christ wants to host a party for your redemption and all the great things he has planned. Are you ready to RSVP?

READ I

So far we have established that God is your provider, your caretaker, your leader, your comforter. Let's discuss how he is your host:

*You **prepare a table** before me in the presence of my enemies; --Psalm 23:5 (NIV)*

As Christians, we are called to be comfortable being uncomfortable as our walk with God often goes in the opposite direction of the ways of others and the world. God has set us apart to focus on his provisions and not on our expectations of others.

But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you. Surely, Lord, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favor as with a shield.

--Psalm 5:11-12 (NIV)

God is the host with the most and has prepared everything we need to live in His goodness. No matter what your enemies are doing or how much they want to see you fail, God has already set you up for success with his favor surrounding you.

How does it feel to know that when you follow God as your Shepherd, God has prepared a life of his favor and blessings for you despite your circumstances? What can you do to shift your focus from the expectations of the world and others, to what God is preparing and providing?

READ I

The table that God has prepared is for you and no one else. The plans and purposes He has made and appointed for your life are special and divinely ordained.

you anoint my head with oil; --Psalm 23:5 (NIV)

An anointing is God's blessing for your life, a pouring out of God's spirit and favor to accomplish His good works through you. It is a cleansing of who you were in the world the redemption of who God made you to be in Christ:

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. --Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

This can be an overwhelming thought for some, we may feel unworthy or unsure that we can handle any more than what the world has already put on our plate.

First, we must make room for God's Power in our lives by letting go of anything that is holding us back or weighing us down. Next, we need to believe that with God's anointing we will be a better version of ourselves and, that with it the impossible, is possible:

*Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish **infinitely more** than we might ask or think. --Ephesians 3:20 (NLT)*

Finally, we should remain grateful for any appointment we have been given and stay open and ready for where God leads us next. We are to call upon and receive every anointing God has prepared for us and not get complacent to stay in ones from our past.

What does it mean to you to be chosen and worthy of God's blessing, favor and power in your life?

READ |

In Hebrew the word Messiah is Mashiach. This comes from the Hebrew verb masach, which means "to anoint." Jesus Christ is our messiah and the one anointed by God. This means that when we are called to be anointed by God, we are called to be Christ like. Here are two ways we can be more Christ like:

Serve and Sacrifice for Others;

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." --Mark 10:45 (ESV)

Love God, Love Yourself, Love Your Neighbor.

"love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind... love your neighbor as yourself." --Matthew 22:37&39 (ESV)

Which of these is easiest and hardest for you? Where can you be more Christ like?

READ |

The end of this verse is one of the best promises in the bible. As we focus on the table God prepared for us and receive His anointing: **my cup overflows.** --Psalm 23:5 (NIV)

The cup represents our life and just like in life, we can feel limited by our cup at times. Whether it is too empty and we do not have the strength or capability to do what is needed. Or, it is full to the brim making us feel overwhelmed and without the capacity to find peace. Luckily, scripture tells us where to go to make our cup unlimited:

“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” --John 7:37-38 (NIV)

When we believe in Christ and invite God into our lives, He becomes the source of the water that fills our cup. So when we feel spiritually thirsty or when life brings us down with unmet expectations, **we must stay in Christ, and Christ is in His Word**.

*Let your roots grow down into him and draw up nourishment from him. See that you go on growing in the Lord, and become strong and vigorous in **the truth** you were taught. Let your lives **overflow with joy and thanksgiving** for all he has done.*

--Colossians 2:7 (TLB)

Here we see what our cup overflows with: **joy and gratitude**. Therefore, we should practice gratitude and choose joy whenever possible so it can overflow to those around us. When we can't find joy or gratitude it might be time to seek a new cup (life).

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

--Romans 6:4 (NIV)

New cups are given to those who die to their old ways to be redeemed by the grace and mercy of Christ. We are to die unto ourselves daily to remain secure in our new life.

What is the state of your cup right now? What can you do to help it overflow?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

This week, focus on God and ask him to reveal what he has been preparing for your life. Make room for and invite a fresh anointing to your life. Stay in the Word, practice gratitude and choose joy to overflow your cup with the glory of God's Goodness.

ADDITIONAL ACTION STEPS (Optional):

- Do the daily devotion S.O.A.P. each day this week, found on the next page.

CLOSE IN PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, thank You for being a great host. Thank You for preparing, anointing and overflowing my life with Your glory and Goodness. Help me to focus on You and trust in Your ability to provide everything I need. Redeem my heart and mind to make me new again in Your appointments for my life. Anoint me with Your plans and purposes for this season. I am ready for my cup to overflow and to choose joy and live in gratitude for all Your Son did for me on the cross. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Make Time to be in God's WORD

Reading God's Word daily re-patterns the way you think & transforms your mind. Doing your daily devotions is an excellent way to record, process, & share what God is teaching you on a personal level. We do this using S.O.A.P.

- S - Scripture**
- O - Observation**
- A - Application**
- P - Prayer**

Here's an example:

S: *Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "*

--Matthew 4:4 (NIV)

O: Jesus said that we can't live on food alone. Our life is sustained through His Word.

A: Just as food is important to me, God's Word is even more because it will sustain me and give me the strength to live out my life.

P: Jesus, thank You for reminding me that I need Your Word to give me the wisdom & strength to follow You. Help me to make time to spend with You daily. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

SCRIPTURES FOR S.O.A.P.

Day 1:

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

--1 Thessalonians 5:18 (ESV)

Day 2:

"God is leading you away from danger, Job, to a place free from distress. He is setting your table with the best food.

--Job 36:16 (NLT)

Day 3:

How wonderful are the good things you keep for those who honor you! Everyone knows how good you are, how securely you protect those who trust you.

--Psalm 31:19 (GNT)

Day 4:

Then the Spirit of the Lord will rush upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be changed into a different man.

--1 Samuel 10:6 (NASB)

Day 5:

Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, until he comes and showers his righteousness on you.

--Hosea 10:12 (NIV)