

LIVING

IN

GOD'S

GOODNESS

P S A L M 2 3

TIPS TO A SUCCESSFUL GROUP

- **MAKE GROUP A PRIORITY.** Communicate in advance when you will be unable to attend by either calling and/or texting your host or responding to the zoom email invitation by accepting or declining. This will help your host to plan accordingly especially if it is an in person small group gathering.

Week 6: Our Savior and Salvation

ICEBREAKER

What would you do if you had unlimited opportunity and resources?

INTRODUCTION

Now that we have been equipped by Father, Son and Holy Spirit to live a happy, purposeful and plentiful life, it is time for action. Everything Psalm 23 teaches has built to this: the start of our new life in Christ. With our valleys behind us and the favor of God upon us, we are ready to do good and see the world through new eyes. This week we end our series firmly Living in God's Goodness daily as we follow our Shepherd and look forward to both the next chapter of our life and eternity in the House of the Lord.

READ |

If you are following our story; after being humbled in life's valleys, we have been redeemed and are ready to follow God's path for the rest of our lives and into eternity:

*Surely **goodness** and **mercy** shall follow me **all the days of my life**: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. --Psalm 23:6 (KJV)*

David understood that God was watching over him and that God's love would follow him forever, as long as he stayed faithful. When we love and honor God, we can rest assured that His Will for our lives will be done and that He is working in all things, for our good.

*And we know that **in all things God works** for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. --Romans 8:28 (NIV)*

All the blessings we receive and hardships we endure in our faith walk leads us to His glory in heaven. To live in God's goodness means to live for God's glory. We can enjoy all the goodness and some of the glory in life through our relationship with Jesus Christ.

Have you felt God's goodness? What were you doing? Do you believe you can live for God's glory? How can you strengthen your relationship with God to find out?

READ | **LIVE COMPASSIONATELY**

For goodness and mercy to follow us, something greater must be happening in us. Our salvation in Christ is underscored by His love and sacrifice, which combined makes **compassion**. When we sacrifice in love to help others, we are acting in compassion.

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. --Galatians 6:2 (NIV)

As we follow God, we are no longer meant to live our lives transactionally; always looking for what we get in return. We are meant to live relationally; sacrificing in love to lift up and grow the hearts and minds of others. By doing this, we are a light for good:

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. --Matthew 5:16 (ESV)

What is a current relationship that you are passionate in growing? What is something you can do to be more compassionate toward others in your walk?

READ | LIVE GENEROUSLY

One of the hardest parts of the Christian walk is struggling with unmet expectations. We believe that because we are saved and live a good life, we are entitled to earthly desires. When we focus on more, it is never enough but when we focus on how we can bless others, we can always find enough. Christ said it this way:

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. --Matthew 6:19-21 (NIV)

When we focus on God's Will and allow him to use our passions, skills and abilities to bless others, he right-sizes our expectations. When we are happy and content in what we have been given, it sets us free to do the great works God has planned for our lives.

Tell them that the kingdom is here. Bring health to the sick. Raise the dead. Touch the untouchables. Kick out the demons. You have been treated generously, so live generously. --Matthew 10:8 (MSG)

**Discuss a time your life was blessed through the actions you took to bless others?
What is something you can do to be more generous toward others in your walk?**

READ | LIVE CONFIDENTLY

*They are confident and fearless and can face their foes triumphantly. They share freely and give generously to those in need. Their good deeds will be remembered forever. **They will have influence and honor.** --Psalm 112:8-9 (NLT)*

The walk of compassion and generosity taught by Christ goes against the walk of many in this world. We will be ridiculed and mocked as we go against the grain of materialism and walk in love toward happiness and eternity. In this we are told to have no fear:

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. --1 John 4:18 (NIV)

We are meant to live confidently, not arrogantly in the love of God. We should pick our battles wisely and always try to discern God's will from our own. To help stay in confidence we should stay connected to church and other believers, pray and ask for help (humble ourselves), read scripture and apply it to reveal the truth in our lives.

Where do you have a hard time being confident in Christ? What is something you can do to be more confident in following God in your walk?

READ I

The story of Psalm 23 is the story of the bible: Mankind was separated from God in the garden of Eden and must learn through the bible how to return to Him and His Will for our life. As we allow Christ, our Good Shepherd, to comfort us, prepare us and lead us through life, He will take us to heaven to be with God in the House of the Lord forever.

..believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?

--John 14:1-2 (NIV)

There is room in heaven for everyone who hears Christ's voice and follows His ways. However, many do not know Him, so we have been entrusted to bring others to Jesus so they may also live in God's favor and goodness for the rest of their lives, and forever.

*Therefore go and **make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **teaching them to obey** everything I have commanded you.*

--Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

Heaven on earth is the legacy of good we leave behind and heaven with God is the reward for a life well lived. Heaven means our work is done but God is never finished.

What do you feel God calling you to do in this life? How can you use your walk with God to encourage others to turn away from the world and turn to Christ for salvation?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

This week, look forward to the next chapter of your life. With Christ as your shepherd find ways to be compassionate, generous and confident in your faith toward others. Make plans to stay connected to church and small group through the summer.

ADDITIONAL ACTION STEPS (Optional):

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

CLOSE IN PRAYER:

Father God, thank You for the wisdom of David in Psalm 23. Thank You for giving me a shepherd in Christ to help me through this life and into heaven to be with You for eternity. Help me to live for Your glory and choose compassion, practice gratitude and live in confidence of Your love for me. Make my walk a testimony of Your goodness that brings others to know You in Christ. I trust You and I am ready to live in Your goodness for the rest of my life. 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:

What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory
--Romans 9:23 (NIV)

Day 2:

"Give thanks continually to our Lord because he is so good, and because his mercy will never run out."So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.
--Hebrews 10:34-35 (NIV)

Day 3:

That is what is meant by the Scriptures which say that no mere man has ever seen, heard, or even imagined what wonderful things God has ready for those who love the Lord.

--1 Corinthians 2:9 (NLT)

Day 4:

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

--Matthew 25:21 (NIV)

Day 5:

knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

--Colossians 3:24 (ESV)