

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Our Father the Provider | Pastor Daniel Groves
Father's Day at Hope City

Scripture

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, He refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. 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. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 23:1-6

Main Idea

At Hope City, we always communicate that it's not about religion. It's about relationship. Everything changes in a relationship when you TRULY know who someone is. When you have a revelation of their character and understand what they truly represent, we can take that relationship to another level. Today we are looking at Psalm 23 to see a perspective of God our Father as the good shepherd and how it affects us as His sons and daughters.

OUR FATHER PROVIDES A COVERING.

Read: Matthew 6:26, Psalm 84:11, Psalm 23:2

Pastor Daniel mentioned that one thing he knows at this point is that "God and I have history." After reading the verses above, share some of your history and how God has provided a covering for you.

OUR FATHER PROVIDES REST.

Read: Exodus 33:14; Psalm 23:3

So often we are tired because we are so busy. Explain what rest looks like to you. Where is your resting place, and is it leading you to be refreshed and renewed?

OUR FATHER PROVIDES GUIDANCE.

Read: Psalm 32:8, Isaiah 58:11, Psalm 23:4

Where is God leading you in this season? What are your next steps?

OUR FATHER PROVIDES PROTECTION.

Read: Isaiah 41:10, John 16:33, Psalm 23:5

How are you handling your “even though” moments? After looking at Isaiah 41:10 and John 16:33, how are you encouraged to face your next dark valley?

OUR FATHER PROVIDES CONFIDENCE.

Read: Hebrews 4:16, John 10:10, Psalm 23:6

Pastor Daniel shares that the enemy knows he can't take you out, so he's trying to wear you out. Where do you see your confidence wearing thin, and why? How do the above verses encourage you to be confident and not give up?

***Don't let the presence of the enemy distract you from the blessing.**

OUR FATHER PROVIDES UNENDING LOVE.

Read: Hebrews 4:16, John 10:10, Psalm 23:6

Where do you see God's goodness following you?

Summary

Maybe today's message was challenging for you to hear and relate to because your experience with your earthly father was not good. We want you to know that God the Father has you in mind and has a plan for you to become who He created you to be. He is a good father, and you can run to him knowing that he will care for you, provide for you, protect you, and be everything you need.

Call To Action

1. Read Psalm 23 everyday this week and meditate on the characteristics of God our Father.
2. Take time this week to remember your father. Look for ways that you can demonstrate forgiveness, appreciation, and love.
3. If you are a dad (or mom), how can you adjust your parenting skills to reflect our Heavenly Father's example in Psalm 23?

Group Leader Resource

Game: Wild Card

1. Depending on the size of your group and how long you want the game to last, hand each player 5-10 blank index cards.
2. Each player should then write interesting rules on each of the cards so that they can be played in the game.
3. These rules are things such as: speak like a pirate until your next turn, do 10 jumping jacks, sing Happy Birthday, etc.
4. Shuffle all the cards that were created together, along with 5 additional blank cards and deal out five cards to each player.
5. On player one's turn, they draw a card from the deck and then play a card from their hand (place the card in the middle of the table).
6. They then follow the rule on the card (e.g., speak like a pirate). If a blank card is drawn, it can be written on and played at any time.
7. It is then player two's go. They do the exact same thing - then player three goes, and so on and so forth.
8. Play continues until there are no cards left unplayed.