

Discussion Guide Challenge Accepted Wk3

6/18/2023

A Father Worth Following

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Main Idea

This weekend I want to look at a passage of Scripture found in Psalm 23, written by David. It paints a picture of who God is as Our father. It's the story of the Good Shepherd. David lived this out as a shepherd himself way before he ever became king. A shepherd's role is one who guides, directs, takes care of, and leads and covers...the sheep or flock. Which is amazing because that is also the foundational role of a father to take care of, guide, direct, lead and cover.

Psalm 23:1-6 (NIV)

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. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. 6 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.

I Am Covered By My Father

He's everything you need when you need it. We can be confident of this because of our relationship with our Father. Where do you feel you are lacking in your relationship with Good Shepherd?

Read: Matthew 6:26, Psalm 84:11

I Am Restored By The Father

So many times we're tired because we're so busy. Slowing down is a power move.

Pace is proof of maturity. What is your rhythm of rest? Where is your resting place?

Read: Exodus 33:14

I Am Led By The Father

To be refreshed is to be renewed. The word renew means to restart, to reset, to begin again, to refocus. Where is the Good Shepherd leading you? What obstacles have you been facing? How does allowing Him to lead help us to be refreshed?

Read: Psalm 32:8, Isaiah 58:11

I Am Protected By The Father

The “even thoughts” will come but we don’t have to fear because the shepherd is protecting and comforting me. What “even though” moments are you in the middle of right now?

Read: Isaiah 41:10, John 16:33

I Am Confident In The Father

Don’t let the presence of the enemy distract you from the blessing of your Heavenly Father. He is blessing us in the midst of chaos. Where are you lacking confidence in life right now?

Read: Hebrews 4:16, Deuteronomy 28:7, John 10:10

I Am Loved By The Father

God’s goodness and Love is pursuing us. NOTHING can separate us from the love of God. When have you doubted the love of God for you? How do you see yourself now? What made the difference?

Read: Romans 8:38-39, Deuteronomy 31:8

SUMMARY

To those who grew up with an absent dad, there is a God who is present. To those who grew up with an abusive dad there is a God who protects. To those who grew up with an apathetic dad there is a God who is compassionate. To those who have lost their dad there is a God who is close to the brokenhearted To those who grew up without a dad there is a God who calls you His Own. He is our good Shepherd, our good Father.

CALL TO ACTION

1. Take some time today and call your father or father figure and thank them for what they have meant to you and something specific that they've taught you.
2. Sometimes His rod and staff come into play in our lives because we need submit to His leading and protection. Take some time to examine the obstacles you're facing and determine if they are His correction, His protection, or His direction. Then determine your next steps to make the most of the opportunity.
3. Look at your personal or family calendar and plan your rhythm of rest.

GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

Game: Dad Jokes

Have everyone share their personal favorite dad joke. If they don't have one, ask them to Google one quickly.

Example:

What do you call a fake noodle?

- An Impasta