

- Because Of God's STEADFAST LOVE For Me

"Surely goodness and mercy..."

"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22-23 NIV

"The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The Lord is good to all; He has compassion on all He has made."

Psalm 145:8-9 NIV

- Because Of God's PURSUIT Of Me

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life."

"Your beauty and love chase after me every day of my life."

Psalm 23:6a MSG

"...the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard." Isaiah 58:8b NIV

"The Lord watches over all who love Him..." Psalm 145:20a NIV

Key Idea: No Matter What Happens, God

Will Be GOOD TO ME

"What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. In the same way your Father in Heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish." Matthew 18:12-14 NIV

NEXT WEEK: LIVING ABOVE HOPELESSNESS

LIVING IN THE **GOODNESS** OF GOD

RON THOMPSON >>> NOVEMBER 18, 2018

LIVING ABOVE INSECURITY

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for You are with me, for 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 goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life..." Psalm 23:1-6a ESV

I CAN BE SECURE...

- Because Of God's FAITHFULNESS To Me

"Surely..."

"If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot disown Himself." 2 Timothy 2:13 NIV

- Because Of God's ABUNDANT GOODNESS To Me

"Surely goodness..."

"You are good, and what You do is good; teach me Your decrees."

Psalm 119:68 NIV

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." James 1:17 NIV



This Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday's message. Join one of our message-based Community Groups to do this study together. Visit the Groups table after service to find a group!

LESSON AIM: The aim of this lesson is to learn to live in God's goodness, above insecurity. "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life..."

Psalm 23:6a ESV

BELONG in God's family:

CHECK IN: David was an old man when he wrote this Psalm. He had seen tragedies and disappointments, but he also had come to know God as a Good Shepherd. Take a minute to reflect on the whole month of messages on Psalm 23 and briefly share what it has meant to you.

OPENING PRAYER

ICEBREAKER: Today we are talking about security. Many young children have stuffed animals, blankets, or other objects that give them a sense of comfort and security. Did you have something like this? How important was it to you?

BECOME like Jesus:

1. On Sunday we heard that following the Good Shepherd provides us with a level of protection and peace that often transcends reason. We can choose to accept this gift, or we can live a life of constant worry and insecurity. Take a look at Proverbs 3:5-6. What does this bring to mind?
2. There was a moment on the cross when Jesus quoted Psalm 22. Read Matthew 27:46. Can you relate to this prayer of Jesus?

3. Read Isaiah 26:3-4. How does trusting in God's character enable us to experience peace and security? What are practical ways that we can "keep our mind anchored on God"?
4. In Luke 22:42 even Jesus wondered if the cross was the right plan, or if He would be able to endure it. The humanity of Jesus is very relatable here. Ultimately Jesus surrendered Himself to God and trusted the Father's plan. Have you ever come to a place of surrender like this? Did it result in greater peace or security for you?

BLESS others:

In Matthew 5:45 we see that the Lord showers "goodness and mercy" to the just and the unjust. How can we demonstrate "goodness and mercy" to others and bless them?

BUILD God's kingdom:

When we root our lives in the belief that "Goodness and mercy will follow me," we are a light to others as we live above worry and fear (see Matthew 6:31-33). Can you think of a time when the circumstances of your life was a light to others?

BELIEVE God and act in faith:

When we believe that God is our Good Shepherd, we can step out in faith without being haunted by fear and insecurity. What actions can you take this week that would demonstrate that "Goodness and mercy will follow" you and sustain you?

PRAYER: What is a challenge you are facing this week? How can we pray and support you?

November 18, 2018



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