



LORD, I WANT TO
KNOW YOU

A STUDY BASED OFF THE BOOK BY KAY ARTHUR

The Lord My Shepherd.

We live in the age of self-help. Even if you don't outrightly buy the self-help books, you can't avoid the inspirational phrases all over the internet, radio, etc. *Believe in yourself. You can do it!*

But God says the opposite. In fact, in the Bible, Jesus often refers to us as sheep. Sheep are dumb - really dumb. So dumb that they've been known to, "nibble themselves right off a mountainside." #relatable, right? On a less relatable note, sheep will starve themselves if they eat all the grass in an area and a shepherd does not lead them to a new pasture. They are completely defenseless to predators, even prone to dying from sheer panic.

Sheep are the walking definition of: "You cannot do this on your own." Kay Arther writes, "All the positive maxims in the world can't change the fact that sheep are sheep. What makes the difference in sheep is the shepherd."

Our good Shepherd watches out for us. He protects us. He fights for us, seeks us out, and attends to our needs.

And through our good Shepherd who brings us strength, we can do all things!

In the Bible

John 10:11-17

11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. 13 The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

14 “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me — 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. 17 The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again.

John 15:5

5 “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

Psalms 23

The Lord is my shepherd;

I have all that I need.

2 He lets me rest in green meadows;

he leads me beside peaceful streams.

3 He renews my strength.

He guides me along right paths,

bringing honor to his name.

4 Even when I walk

through the darkest valley,^[a]

I will not be afraid,

for you are close beside me.

Your rod and your staff
protect and comfort me.

5 You prepare a feast for me
in the presence of my enemies.

You honor me by anointing my head with oil.
My cup overflows with blessings.

6 Surely your goodness and unfailing love will
pursue me
all the days of my life,
and I will live in the house of the Lord
forever.

Questions

- 1.) What are the most relatable qualities you have in common with sheep? The most unfortunate?
- 2.) What are some of the benefits to being a sheep in our shepherd's flock?
- 3.) How have you seen God be a shepherd in your life? (Actual examples)
- 4.) How can you begin to lean on Him instead of your own abilities this week?