

Sunday school lesson; Comfort (part 2)

Today's HOPE (main point): We can find comfort in our Good Shepherd who meets all our needs.

Remember, our theme for this month is COMFORT. And in our last lesson, we looked at the 23rd Psalm, specifically, verse 4: "thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me." We talked about the difference between a shepherd's rod and his staff. Does anyone remember the difference? (*A staff has the hook on the end and is used for guiding sheep and bringing them back into safety. A rod is used to fight off enemies and for counting the sheep as well.*)

Can anyone tell me how knowing the difference between the rod and the staff helps us to understand how they comfort us? (*The rod symbolizes God's power and protection; the staff represents His guidance and lovingkindness.*)

Today, we are going to spend more time looking at the 23rd Psalm together. Because it's one of the psalms that so many people have memorized, we need to break it down and examine the words further so we don't just recite them without considering their meaning.

Let's start with the very first verse. Who can say it with me? "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."

That's in the King James version. In the NIV, it says, "The Lord is my shepherd; I lack nothing."

So what does that tell us about our shepherd? (*He will meet all our needs.*)



So does it mean God gives us everything we want? (*No. But we will always have our needs supplied.*)

Philippians 4:19 tells us, "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."

Matthew 6:25-32 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? 28 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

God knows what we need and He will provide for us, just as a good and diligent shepherd provides for his sheep.

Let's look at the first part of verse 2 in Psalm 23. "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want....verse 2...He maketh me to lie down in green pastures." Let's stop there and talk about this: "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures."

The strange thing about sheep is that it is nearly impossible to make them lie down!

Because of their timid nature, they will not lie down unless they are free of all fear. And because of the social behaviors within a flock, sheep will not lie down unless they are free from friction and tension with the other sheep. If they are being tormented by flies or some sort of parasite, they will not relax enough to lie down. And if they feel any hunger, they will not lie down.

Isn't that interesting? David knew these things about sheep when he wrote this psalm. And yet He says that the Lord makes us lie down in green pastures.

We live in a world that is full of chaos, disaster, conflict and turmoil. Is there something that causes you fear? (*encourage residents to share*) Is there a conflict or an aggravation that is keeping you frustrated and anxious? (*encourage residents to share*)

A good shepherd will make his sheep lie down because he will help them in their time of fear and turmoil. Jesus is our good Shepherd. If I will keep my eyes on Him, I can lie down in green pastures. I cannot look at the world around me for very long without immediately starting to feel afraid. So we must fix our eyes on our Good Shepherd to find comfort and peace.

Psalm 4:8 says, "I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety."

Now, what comes next in verse 2? "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures, He leadeth me beside the still waters.

When sheep get thirsty, they become restless and set out in search of water.



If not led to the good water supplies of clean, pure water, they will often end up drinking from polluted pot holes where they pick up germs leading to disease.

The same is true of us. To fill the cravings of our souls, we often turn to polluted waters....alcohol, drugs, careers, food, relationships. These things can never truly satisfy us, and in fact, often leave us weak and sick in our souls.

Our shepherd, Jesus, doesn't just lead us to clean, pure water, He Himself IS our water!

When Jesus was talking to the woman at the well, He said, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." John 4:13-14

Jesus said in John 7:37-38 "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them."

Now, let me ask you, can you get a big drink of water on Sunday and then not have any more to drink the rest of the week? (*wait for a "no"*)

Of course not! We need water every day. In the same way, every day we need to go to Jesus to satisfy the longing of our souls. How do we do that? (*through prayer and Bible reading*)

We're going to stop there with our study of Psalm 23 today. If you have any questions about our lesson today, or if you want to know Jesus as your Good Shepherd, come talk to me at the end.

Let's end with saying the Lord's Prayer together today.

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.



## Faithful Friends

Sunday school lesson: Comfort (2)

*Today's HOPE (main point): We can find comfort in our Good Shepherd who meets all our needs.*



**Psalm 23** 1The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

**Philippians 4:19** And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

**Matthew 6:25-32** “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? 28 “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

**Psalm 4:8** I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

**John 4:13-14** Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

**John 7:37-38** Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done  
on earth, As it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory,  
For ever and ever. Amen.



Faithful Friends Kentucky

[www.faithfulfriendsky.org](http://www.faithfulfriendsky.org)

## Because He Lives

How sweet to hold  
A new born baby  
And feel the pride  
And the joy that he gives  
But greater still that calm assurance  
We can face uncertain days  
(Holding)  
We can face uncertain days  
Because he lives  
Sing it with us  
And because he lives I can face tomorrow  
Because he lives all fear is gone  
Because I know he holds the future  
And life is worth the living just because he lives  
And then one day  
We'll all cross that river  
And fight life's final war with pain  
And then, as death gives way to victory  
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know he reigns  
Because he lives I can face tomorrow  
Because he lives all fear is gone  
Because I know, I know he holds the future  
And life is worth the living just because he lives  
He lives  
He lives



## Peace In the Valley

Oh well, I'm tired and so weary  
But I must go alone  
'Til the Lord comes and calls  
Calls me away, oh yes  
Well, the morning's so bright  
And the lamp is alight  
And the night  
Night is as black as the sea, oh yes  
There will be peace in the valley for me, some day  
There will be peace in the valley for me, oh Lord I pray  
There'll be no sadness, no sorrow  
No trouble, trouble I see  
There will be peace in the valley for me  
Well the bear will be gentle  
And the wolves will be tame  
And the lion shall lay down  
By the lamb, oh yes  
And the beasts from the wild  
Shall be lit by a child  
And I'll be changed  
Changed from this creature that I am, oh yes  
There will be peace in the valley for me, some day  
There will be peace in the valley for me, oh Lord I pray  
There'll be no sadness, no sorrow  
Oh my Lord, no trouble, trouble I see  
There will be peace in the valley for me, for me

## The Good Shepherd

M T S R I H T O J A K Q S A X N O P N Q  
 Z U G A U S X N P E W T D M G D D S O E  
 F Q M K V I H S M F C R S I I R E J U B  
 F C O V U G U I D E S S G S E E B P M T  
 R Z C O M F O R T S Z U M H Y T G M L G  
 C P J I Q T U O I R B S P M C G V A J E  
 F T Z K N A R D N L C E Y Q G R T H E X  
 Q Q J D W P P W J B H J S E W I H V T Y  
 J Q R B M L D Y G S U V T G I J Y U J U  
 D O W D R L H L F C P U K E N J Z X I X  
 R Q J P Q V Z O A E E Z X I K S X L X D  
 A W T M M E W R T L P A S T U R E S C S  
 N Q P F B X O D M S J N C P E E H S E I  
 W S D R K W R D C D Y T I R G T L B G Y  
 K B E U O H R O Y A T O A B O A M N N P  
 B E M A Y V Y J E E T O L A M W B L H V  
 X G A L K O I U P L L K Q Z F A A L F F  
 I E B R K W S D B Q B B J M Z N U E G T  
 W A I X P L S P E G O U F U T A Z L A R  
 J D K A W D F A S S W U A X B S Y N J M

LORD  
 PROTECTS  
 SHEEP  
 PASTURES  
 PROVIDES

JESUS  
 GUIDES  
 THIRST  
 WATERS

LEADS  
 COMFORTS  
 WORRY  
 SHEPHERD



# Words of Comfort

FOR THE WEEK AHEAD



**Monday:** So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. John 16:22

**Tuesday:** Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

**Wednesday:** "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."  
Matthew 11:28-30

**Thursday:** May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

**Friday:** The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. Psalm 9:9

**Saturday:** But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. John 14:26-27

