



ICEBREAKER

Of all past or current leaders (political, spiritual, social movement, etc) whom would you desire to spend an hour with and learn from their leadership abilities? (While Jesus is always the answer for any question, please choose another name for discussion :)

SCRIPTURE READING

Read: Psalm 23:1-4

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

• LEADERSHIP

Read: Psalm 145:20
1 Samuel 17:34-35
Isaiah 40:11

For David, being a shepherd wasn't about soaking in the glory of a coveted leadership role, but about being ready to risk one's life for those for whom one is supposed to be responsible. The Bible portrays the best shepherds as those who hold their flock personally precious. In the New Testament, we find Jesus has a whole section of teaching comparing His own style of leading to that of the best kind of shepherd.

Read: John 10:3-14

Jesus is our shepherd and takes care of us as His sheep. What is your personal relationship like with your understanding of Jesus as your shepherd? How do you respond to Jesus' leading you and how do you know when you are being led?

• CONTENTED WITH THE PROVIDER OF OUR NEEDS

Read: Psalm 34:9
Matthew 6:33
Romans 8:32
Philippians 4:19

Psalm 23:1B *"I shall not be in want";* "I have all that I need". The Lord, our Shepherd, is our provider. He is Jehovah Jireh, my provider.

Share of a time that your need(s) were provided by the Lord through His servant(s) in a way that you know it was by His hand? In what way did He provide for you that you were absolutely sure it was His provision?

• PRODDING US IN RIGHT PATHS FOR HIS RENOWN

Read: Psalm 79:9
Hebrews 12:6
Ezekiel 20:14

Psalm 23:3B reveals God is a prodder as well as provider. *"He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake."* When we wander from right paths, we discredit our Master, we make Him 'look bad'. So, Heb 12:6 *"the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."*

We have all had our Shepherd bring direction and correction to our lives. In the past month, how has the Lord directed and corrected your walking through the pasture of faith and following His leading and teachings?

• OUR PRESENT PROTECTOR IN DARK TIMES

Read: Psalm 118:6
Isaiah 49:10
Isaiah 43:2
Isaiah 41:10
Matthew 28:20

Psalm 23:4 tells us: *"Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me."* God's presence brings both courage and comfort.

Share of a time that you were provided protection by the Lord in a way that you know it was by His hand? In what way did He protect you that you were absolutely sure it was His protection?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Reread the verses listed in this study to encourage yourself.

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Our Lord Jesus, our Shepherd, leads us, guides us, provides for us, corrects and cares for us and protects us. As a sheep we need to be following our Shepherd. Seek out in your life where you could be more open to receive from the Lord in any of these areas and ask the Lord to intervene to bring change to your life.

PRAISE REPORTS / PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep Dave & Deb Rodges in your prayers as this week's highlighted missionaries.