



the transformative power
of a life built on prayer

SESSION 4

Praying The Names Of God

Instead of focusing on ourselves, praying the names of God makes it all about Him.

Connect:

Discuss the following questions:

What key insight or takeaway from last session's study that you would like to share with the group?

Do you enjoy making small talk with people, or do you prefer deeper conversations? Why?

Watch:

Now it's time to watch the video for this session. As you watch, use the following outline to record any thoughts or concepts that stand out to you.

I. YOU ARE MY SHEPHERD

A. "The Lord Is My Shepherd (Psalm 23:1a). The word shepherd literally means pastor. God is watching over us and pastoring us as we go through life.

B. Jesus is the Chief Shepherd. In John 10:4, we read that Jesus said we are like sheep and he is the shepherd. The sheep recognise his voice and turn away from the voice of the enemy.

II. YOU ARE MY PROVIDER

A. "I shall not want" (verse 1b), we literally will not lack because God is watching over our lives. We will never be in need or "begging for bread," because God is the provider in our lives.

B. We trust God to provide, so we give him the first of everything. We tithe, and give, and go to church on the first day of the week =. We give to him first, knowing that he will provide the rest.

III. YOU ARE MY PEACE

A. "He makes me to lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside the still waters" (Verse 2). Even in the middle of anxiety, fear, chaos, worry, stress and depression, God is our peace.

B. God will keep us in perfect peace because we have our minds stayed on him and trust in him, knowing that he is guarding our soul.

IV. YOU ARE MY HEALER

A. "He restores my soul" (Verse 3a). To restore means to return something back to the point of departure. God brings everything that got undone back to the original point of departure

B. A disease is every place where you are dis-eased. So we pray for God to bring healing not only in our Physical bodies but also in every area of our lives that needs his touch...

V. YOU ARE MY RIGHTEOUSNESS

A. "He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His names sake" (verse 3b) When we are saved, we are made completely new and made completely clean. We are made righteous before God.

B. But God still leads us on the paths of righteousness. We thank God that we are no longer where we used to be, but we want to keep growing in righteousness. We want to be more like Christ



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VI. YOU ARE MY CONSTANT COMPANION

A. "yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me" (verse 4) . In the Old Testament, God was literally called" The Lord is there" (see Ezekiel 48:35)

B. In the New Testament the Holy Spirit is described as the Comforter who will abide with us forever he will be right alongside us and help us through life.

VII. YOU ARE MY DEFENDER

A. "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies" (verse 5a) We don't have to fight our own battles. We can sit at a table and eat because God is fighting our battles for us.

B. Right now there are men and women engaged in battles around the world to defend our freedoms God is doing This same he is fighting battles that we don't even know anything about.

VIII. YOU ARE MY SANCTIFIER

A. "You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over" (verse 5) God anoints us and gives us more than we need so that we can be a blessing to the world around us.

B. The word sanctify in the Greek literally means to be set apart for a special work God sanctifies us or sets us apart so that we can be used by Him in a great way.

DISCUSS: Discuss what you just watched by answering the following questions

1. "The Lord Is my shepherd" (Psalm 23:1a). How has God "Shepherded" you in life? How do you tend to respond when you sense that he is leading you?

2. "I lack nothing" (verse 1b). How easy or difficult is it for you to trust that God will provide for your needs?. How are you demonstrating your trust in him through your giving?

3. "He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters" (verse 2). How often do you spend time in "green pastures" or beside "quiet waters" for spiritual rest and refreshment? Are you one of those sheep that God has to "make" lie down?

4. "He refreshes my soul" (verse 3a). What does it mean that God refreshes your soul? When have you recently experienced God's healing or restoration in a particular area of your life ?

5. "He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake" (verse 3b). How have you seen God lead you along "right paths"? What are some of the ways in which he is currently leading you?



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6. Even though i walk through the darkest valley, i will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and staff, they comfort me”(Verse 4). How have you witnessed God comfort you during an especually “dark valley” or trying time in your life?

7. “ You prepared a table before me in the presence of my enemies” (verse 5a). What does this verse say about the peace you can have in your life in spite of what is happening in the world? What kind of peace from God do you need today?

8. “ You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows” (verse 5b). What are some of the ways in which God as anointed you for service? What gifts and abilities has the Lord given to you that he desires for you to use to bless others?

RESPOND:

As mentioned in the video, Jesus also described himself as a shepherd- A Good Shepherd - and said that those who choose to follow after him are his sheep full Jesus went on to explain what he does for his sheep and how he protects him from the enemy Read through the following passage on your own and then answer the questions that follow.

7 Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. 9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. 10 They will come in and go out, and find pasture. 11 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

12 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 13 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. 14 The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

15 “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— 16 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. 17 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. 18 The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. 19 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.” **John 10:7-10,14-18.**

What promises does “Jesus” give to those sheep who choose to listen to his voice?

What does Jesus say that he is willing to do for his sheep?

What similarities do you see between Jesus’ words in this passage and Psalm 23?

PRAY:

Spend a few moments praying together using One of the eight names attributes for God found in Psalm 23 once again these are Shepherd Provider Peace Healer Righteousness Constant Companion Defender and Sanctifier. Discuss who will cover each name before you start praying make this prayer time focused on group praise and worship for who God is and all that he has done in each of your lives. Thank him for answering your prayers because of his lavish love for you -as members of his flock- and not because of anything you have done