

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”
John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK



Madagascar | Phil & Vala Long

1. Praise that our support level has gone up through the COVID crisis. “Misaotra Betsaka!” (Thanks Much)
2. Due to our support, we were able to provide food, a face mask, soap, and a gospel booklet to over 800 families in need!
3. Due to our giving, we have many people asking us to start a church. We decided to open (as long as the country allows it) a new church in the middle of May, 2020. God is with us!

GROWTH
GUIDE

STRESSBUSTERS
PSALM 23

Handout: 06/07/20

Study: 06/14/20

Busting The Stress Of The Future

Throughout the study of this psalm, continuous emphasis has been put upon the care exercised by the attentive shepherd. All the benefits enjoyed by a flock under skilled and loving management have been drawn in bold lines. Now all of this is summed up here by the psalmist in one brave but simple statement: “Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life”!

The sheep with such a shepherd knows of a surety that his is a privileged position. No matter what comes, at least and always he can be perfectly sure that goodness and mercy will be in the picture. He reassures himself that he is ever under sound, sympathetic, intelligent ownership. What more need he care about? Goodness and mercy will be the treatment he receives from his master’s expert, loving hands. Not only is this a bold statement, but it is somewhat of a boast, an exclamation of implicit confidence in the One who controls his career and destiny.

How many Christians actually feel this way about Christ? How many of us are truly convinced that no matter what occurs in our lives we are being followed by goodness and mercy? Of course it is very simple to speak this way when things are going well. If my health is excellent, my income is flourishing, my family is well, and my friends are fond of me, it is not hard to say, “Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life.”

But what about when one’s body breaks down? What do I say when I stand by helpless, as I have had to do, and watch a life partner die by degrees under appalling pain? What is my reaction when my job folds up and there is no money to meet bills? What happens if my children can’t make their grades in school or get caught running with the wrong gang? What do I say when suddenly, without good grounds, friends prove false and turn against me?

These are the sort of times that test a person’s confidence in the care of Christ. These are the occasions during which the chips are down and life is more than a list of pious platitudes. When my little world is falling apart and the dream castles of my ambitions and hopes crumble into ruins, can I honestly declare, “Surely—yes, surely—goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life”? Or is this sheer humbug and a maddening mockery?

In looking back over my own life, in the light of my love and care for my sheep, I can see again and again a similar compassion and concern for me in my Master’s management of my affairs. There were events, which at the time seemed like utter calamities; there were paths down which He led me that appeared like blind alleys; there were days He took me through which were well-nigh black as night itself. But all in the end turned out for my benefit and my well-being.

Source: A Shepherd Looks At Psalm 23 by W. Phillip Keller

KEY VERSE

Psalm 23:6 (NKJV)

*“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever. ”*

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Psalm 23; Psalm 103:17

Introduction

1. What kind of stress does thinking about the future cause you?
2. Psalm 23:6 begins with the word “surely”. How can you face the future confidently?

Tuesday: Psalm 23; Psalm 36:7-10; Romans 8:28

Goodness Is Watching Over You

3. How have you seen God’s goodness in your life?
4. How can you be sure goodness will follow you all the days of your life?

Wednesday: Psalm 23; I Peter 1:3; Lamentations 3:2

Mercy Is Working In You

5. How have you seen God’s mercy in your life?
6. How can you be sure mercy will follow you all the days of your life?

Thursday: Psalm 23; I John 5:13; II Corinthians 5:8

Heaven Is Waiting For You

7. What does it mean to you to dwell in the house of the Lord forever?
8. In what ways do you experience His presence now?
9. The shepherd in Psalm 23 takes great care of the sheep. How is the Shepherd your great reward?

Friday: Psalm 23; Revelation 21:4; John 14:2-3

Heaven Is Waiting For You Part II

10. What are you most looking forward to about heaven?
11. Those who do not belong to Jesus will not get to dwell in His house forever. How does that impact your evangelism?
12. What has been the most impactful verse of Psalm 23 to you?