

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

Living With The Lord As My Shepherd

The shepherd knows his sheep intimately. A shepherd is different from someone who simply raises cattle on a ranch. The shepherd knows each of his sheep individually and develops a close relationship with them. He knows their habits, he knows their weaknesses, and he knows their strengths. He is there when the sheep is born, he is there when the sheep is ill, he is there when the sheep wanders away, and he is there to bring the sheep back into the fold. He often gives each sheep a name based on the sheep’s personality and special circumstances.

Jesus said, “I know my sheep and my sheep know me – just as the Father knows me and I know the Father.” (John 10:14-15) There is no deeper relationship in the world than the relationship between the members of the Trinity. The three persons of the trinity – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit – have existed as one God in perfect harmony for all of eternity. And yet Jesus dares to model his relationship with his sheep after his own relationship with the Father, the deepest, most intimate relationship imaginable.

But this is not a one-way relationship. Not only does the shepherd know his sheep. The sheep know the shepherd. That’s what Jesus said: “I know my sheep and my sheep know me.” (John 10:14) Jesus also said, “The sheep listen to [the shepherd’s] voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out ... he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.” (John 10:3-4)

Each shepherd in the Middle East develops a distinctive call that his sheep immediately recognize. So when two shepherds and their flocks cross paths with each other, there is no problem. The shepherd keeps calling out to his sheep, and the flocks may mingle momentarily, but the sheep know their shepherd’s voice, and so the flocks eventually separate with each set of sheep happily following after their master’s voice.

This is the beauty of Psalm 23. The Lord is not simply a shepherd. He is my shepherd. I know him, and he knows me. This is the beauty of Christianity. Christianity is not about a set of rules or regulations. It is about enjoying a personal relationship with your God and Creator through his Son Jesus Christ. The shepherd knows his sheep. And the sheep know their shepherd.

Because when it comes right down to it, the Lord himself is the real provision that I need. He is the one thing necessary, and if I have him as my shepherd, then I lack nothing. Give me Jesus, and I will be satisfied.

Source: “The Shepherd on the Path – Psalm 23” by Ray Fowler

MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK



Kenya | Ole & Renee Konnerup

- 1. Praise how so many have found ways to adapt through COVID. We have pastors using megaphones to preach to neighborhoods, pastors leading messages on Facebook, etc.
2. Less than 400 total in Kenya have been infected with COVID. This is both a praise for low numbers and a prayer request for those affected.
3. Recently, our Christian school bus driver accepted Christ!

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; John 10:27-30; Ezekiel 34:23-24

Allow Jesus To Calm Your Worry

1. How does Jesus provide you security?
2. List a specific worry you struggle with. How can Jesus calm your worry?

Tuesday: Psalm 23; Psalm 42; Psalm 51:10-12

Allow Jesus To Heal Your Emotions

3. How has Jesus been a loving Shepherd to you?
4. List some specific emotions you struggle with. How can Jesus heal your emotions?

Wednesday: Psalm 23; Isaiah 42:16, 53:6; Psalm 5:8

Allow Jesus To Guide Your Decisions

5. What qualities does Jesus have that make Him the perfect guide?
6. List some specific decisions you are facing. How can Jesus guide your decisions?

Thursday: Psalm 23; Isaiah 43:2; I Peter 1:6-7; Hebrews 13:5-6

Allow Jesus To Get You Through The Dark Valleys

7. Why do we have to go through the valleys? Is it possible to avoid the valleys?
8. How is Jesus uniquely qualified to help you through dark valleys?
9. Think of some of the dark valleys you have faced in your life. How has the Shepherd gotten you through these valleys?

Friday: Psalm 23; Romans 12:14-21; Matthew 11:28-30

Allow Jesus To Help Your Difficult Relationships

10. How does Jesus satisfy your needs?
11. List some difficult relationships in your life. How can Jesus help your difficult relationships?
12. What has God taught you through Psalm 23?