

W's Because the Lord is My Shepherd

Principles #7 and #8

WORSHIP

Consider reading Psalm 23 together, taking turns reading a verse a time, or reading responsively with the leader reading a verse and the group responding with the next verse. You can discuss the Psalms you read and share what they mean to you.

Consider singing some of the songs on the sheets that were included in your packet if you have someone in the group that plays the guitar or can lead music and/or play the guitar.

End your worship time together with 'popcorn praise'. Tell the group that you'll pray together, but without the usual trappings of prayer, no long prayers, no eloquent speech, and no requests, just simple words of praise like, "Father, you know I was almost in an accident this week and you showed up and protected me and my family, thank you."

WELCOME

Have you ever been in a situation where you desperately needed help but were certain that no one would help you because your problem was just TOO BIG? Did you get the help that you needed? How did it feel to have someone reach out to help when you were in such need? Tell us the story.

WORD

Discussion questions.

OUR TIME IN THE WORD

1. Psalm 23 helps us to understand our relationship with our Shepherd, Jesus; it also helps us to understand what good shepherding really is. How should these two truths impact our lives as we do Life together with other followers of Jesus?

Answer:

2. Jesus did not ask us to consider how effective we could be, or how much we could get done for Him; He asked us to count the cost. What does this mean and what difference should counting the cost make in our lives today?

Answer:

3. If I am a shepherd, it is because I serve out of the overflow of the love I have for Christ. What does this mean and how should this truth impact the way we live and the reason we serve?

Answer:

4. In the song *This Is Now*, Peter tries to explain to Jesus what the phrase “that was then, but this is now” means. In the song, what did Peter mean when he said that to Jesus?

Answer:

5. In the song *This Is Now*, Jesus explains to Peter what “that was then but this is now” really means. How was the way that Jesus interpreted that phrase different from the way Peter interpreted it? What should that difference mean to us?

Answer:

WORKS

Psalm 23 primarily tells us what it is like to be Shepherded by God. From it we can learn what it means to shepherd other people in our lives. There are so many who have wandered away and do not know what it is like to be Shepherded by God. Our primary job in this world is to share Christ with people like that so that they will have an opportunity to trust Jesus as their Savior. God will become the Shepherd of their souls and they will be able to say, “Even though I walk through the dark valley of death I will fear no evil for YOU are with me.” As shepherds we cannot afford to miss this opportunity to call others into the Fold of God.

Those of us who lead should remember that there is no better way to motivate others to share the gospel than to set an example for them. Speak to others about Jesus when you have the opportunity

and set an example of lifestyle evangelism for the members of your group. They will be much more likely to follow your example than they will be to simply do what you tell them to do. Ask the group to discuss this and then ask them to think through the list of people you have been praying for each week. Discuss how we can be more aggressively involved in sharing the good news with these folks for whom God has burdened us. We will pray for these people tonight and each night we're together until they come to Life Group, or come to Christ through some other means. Have each couple/individual share the name of one couple/person to pray for and then ask one of the other people in the group to pray for them.

Close your time together in prayer.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Singapore Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Core, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Singapore Facilities

- CCF Singapore Center
- Equipments

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends