

WEEKLY GUIDE

NOVEMBER 28, 2021

GATHER!
SUNDAY AND
THURSDAY

TALK!
DISCUSS THE
LESSONS

DO!
PUT THE
LESSONS INTO
PRACTICE

PRAY!
MAKE YOUR
REQUESTS
KNOWN TO GOD

BIBLE READINGS:

Luke 12:32, Psalm 23:1-6, Luke 1:78-79; 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, Romans 8:28, Hebrews 13:5-6, Proverbs 13:24, Psalm 78:1-8, Psalm 18-20, Psalm 141:4, 1 Corinthians 10:16, Proverbs 23:1-3, Matthew 10:16

LUKE 12:32

32 Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.

PSALM 23:4-6

4 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 protect and comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord, Forever.

LUKE 1:78-79

Through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

PROVERBS 13:24

Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them.

PSALM 78:18-20

They willfully put God to the test by demanding the food they craved. They spoke against God; they said, "Can God really spread a table in the wilderness?"

PROVERBS 9:1-6

Wisdom has also set her table. She has sent out her servants, and she calls from the highest point of the city, "Let all who are simple come to my house and eat my food."

MATTHEW 10:16

"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves."

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DISCUSSION:

Why would a good shepherd lead his sheep into a valley filled with danger? Why is the valley mentioned in the middle of this Psalm? What does this say about God's intention toward us (Jeremiah 29:11)? What does the rod and the staff represent? Why would these tools of the shepherd bring comfort? What should be our greatest and ultimate source of comfort?

Why does God set aside feast days in the Bible? What are some of the things you can find at God's table? How is the food at God's table different than the food at the world's table? Why should we keep our appetites in check? What is ultimately at stake?

What should our attitude be toward our enemies? In what ways can we get drawn into fighting the wrong battles? Instead of fighting flesh and blood battles, what should be our focus (Luke 14:23 and Matthew 22:9)? Why should we not fear those who can kill the body? What is the last enemy to be destroyed?

APPLICATION:

What impacted you the most from this lesson? What were your big takeaways? What will you apply to your life? How will you put what you learned into practice in your life this week?

SUMMARY:

Why would a good shepherd who would lay down his life for his sheep lead a lamb into a valley fraught with danger and death threats? There's only one possible answer: "To get to a better place!" David was confident, not only about his present circumstances, but of grace in the future that would see him all the way home. He believed that valley times were appointed for His good. He learned things about God that could be learned no other way in the deep ravines of life. He stayed close, trusted in God's protection and guidance all the way. All because he could say, "The Lord is my shepherd." When you walk through the darkest of valleys, remember God is with you! His rod *protects* you. His rod *corrects* you because He loves you. His staff guides you through rocky ravines and goes *gets you* when you stray.

God invites you to feast at His table. He sets His table with an abundance of all good things: goodness, lovingkindness, mercy, salvation, and wisdom. When we sit down at His table our infirmities are hidden and we dine as one of the King's sons. The communion table affords us the opportunity to remember all that Christ did for us (1 Corinthians 10:16). We must not allow our heart to be drawn to what is evil, to crave the world's delicacies. It is deceptive food. Instead we are sent out like sheep among wolves. We must be shrewd in dealing with unbelievers but be careful not to lose our innocence. Our fight is not against flesh and blood. We need not fear those who can kill the body, but have no power over your soul (Matthew 10:28). Christ will put all enemies under His feet. The final enemy to be destroyed is death.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

