

FAITH 5 WITH FLAT JESUS!

The week of Sunday, June 25, 2017

SHARE – Share at least One High and One Low from the day or the week.

READ – Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;

³ he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;

for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.

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

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.

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TALK –

A little background info: Psalm 23 is probably the most well-known Psalm, if not scripture of the whole Bible. Even people who have never been to church know this Psalm. It is an example of a psalm of trust, as compared to last week's "complaint/lament" psalm. While the Psalmist needs help from God, it is first and foremost a prayer of trust in the Lord as their Shepherd.

Sometimes psalms are the prayers of individuals, and sometimes of a whole community. Do you think this Psalm functions in both ways? Why or why not?



What characteristics and actions of God does the Psalmist name that reveals the trustworthiness of God?

Some questions to consider as appropriate (some basic, some complex):

Why does the image of God as our shepherd mean to you?

How are we like sheep?

Share a time when you were in need and God helped and guided you to the support and care that you needed?

How does God take care of your needs? Physical, emotional, and spiritual

What does it mean that God leads us in “right paths”?

Have you ever experienced a “dark valley,” or the “valley of the shadow of death”?

How did God help you through that experience?

What does a shepherd use their rod and staff for their sheep? How is that comforting?

Instead of giving the Psalmist armor and weapons to fight their enemies, what does God do? What does that say about how fully we can trust in God?

When you think of “dwelling in the house of the Lord,” what do you imagine?

How does this Scripture relate or connect to your life and faith, your Highs and Lows?

PRAY – You can hold hands or fold your hands when you pray together...

Thank God for the Highs you shared with each other.

Ask God for whatever kind of help and support you need for the Lows you shared with each other.

If you want, you can pray the Lord’s Prayer together.

BLESS – Mark each other with the sign of the Cross on the forehead and say this, or some other blessing you may think of:

“God cares about you and is always there to listen and help.”