



**Teach us to Pray- The Prayer of the Sheep  
Sermon Discussion Questions – Jan. 22**

***Scripture Passages:***

**Psalm 23:1-6 (NKJV)**

The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. 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 comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

**Philippians 2:9-10** <sup>9</sup>Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,  
<sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

**Isaiah 53:6** We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

**Philippians 4:19 (NIV)** <sup>19</sup> And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

**Ecclesiastes 4:6 (NIV)** 6 Better one handful with tranquility than two handfuls with toil and chasing after the wind.

**John 14:27 (NIV)** 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

**1 Peter 2:24-25 (NLT)** 24 He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed. 25 Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls.

**Isaiah 3:21** Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

**Isaiah 32:17** And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever.

**Psalms 121:1-5 (NLT)** I look up to the mountains— does my help come from there? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth! He will not let you stumble; the one who watches over you will not slumber. Indeed, he who watches over Israel never slumbers or sleeps. The Lord himself watches over you! The Lord stands beside you as your protective shade.

**2 Thessalonians 3:3 (NIV)** 3 But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.

**1 Peter 2:9 (NIV)** 9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

### **Warm Up:**

In this week of our series we will be talking about different names for God! Nicknames, if you will. Do you have a nickname or know of someone with a fun nickname?

How did that nickname come to be? Do you think it fit who that person was?

### **Discussion:**

1. This is the first week of prayer and fasting! Guides for all three weeks are still available if anyone needs one. If you have been able to go through the Week One prayer guide, has it been helpful in guiding you through the week? What are you discovering about God and yourself as you pray and reflect?

Have you chosen a type of fast to take part in? How has that looked so far?

\*List types of fasts outlined in Prayer Guide\*

2. Read Psalm 23:1-6

As you read, what are some descriptions that you see of what God does? (ex. "**He Leads** beside still waters", or "**He Comforts** with His staff")

Do you agree with these descriptions of God? Do you see them in other places in your life or in Scripture?

3. Pastor Scott suggested another practice for prayer this week, which is to start off by praying Jesus' name. Read Philippians 2:9-10.

Based on this Scripture, what is so special about praying the name of Jesus? How might it change the way that you pray to know that Jesus' name has power?

4. In his message, Pastor Scott shared multiple names of God that we see in Psalm 23.
  - Jehovah Raah- You are my Pastor
  - Jehovah Jireh- You are my Provider
  - Jehovah Shalom- You are my Peace
  - Jehovah Rapha- You are my Healer
  - Jehovah Tsidkenu- He will work Righteousness
  - Jehovah Shammah- He is my constant companion
  - Jehovah Nissi- He is my Defender
  - Jehovah M'Keddeh- You have set me apart for something special

As you reflect over this list of the names for God, which ones have you experienced in your own life? Are there any that are hard for you to believe, why?

5. This week, Pastor Scott spent a lot of time walking through Psalm 23.

What is one phrase or description from Psalm 23 that stands out to you? If so why? What might God want to teach you through that phrase or those words this week?

6. A fun nickname may come from a funny moment in your life, or something that your friends notice about you. The names of God come from the praises of His people about His character. Praying the names of God reminds us of who He is, despite what we see in a given moment. They will ALWAYS be grounded in who He is.

What might it look like to approach God in your prayer time by recognizing who He is? What are some ways that you have learned about God's character in the past?

7. Quote from Pastor Scott's message: *God answers prayer based on - **who He is** and what he can do not on **who we are**.*

What are some of your reactions to this statement? How might knowing this impact the way you pray? Can you think of some examples of times when a prayer you prayed was answered? Take a few minutes to share this with the group.

8. Is there a certain name of God that you need in mind to pray to this week?

### **Next Steps:**

Take some time each day this week to read through Psalm 23. As you do, ask God to speak to you about who he is. Take one word or phrase from Psalm 23 and turn it into a prayer for someone you care about.