

## Getting Ready for Sunday

Devotions for the week of May 1 through May 5

**Monday:** This coming Sunday we're going to think about Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Of course with that theme we want to start with the words of Psalm 23. "The LORD is my Shepherd." He leads us where we need to be and provides us with our needs. And at the end of the day he leads us back to safety despite the dangers that are all around. And when we return to our *real* home, he treats us like his own children, blessing us with so much. With Him as our Good Shepherd we have no need to worry. Lord remind us of Your love and care when things aren't going right in our lives. Give us that comfort that we have as we trust in the implements of the Good Shepherd. Amen.

**Tuesday:** Today and tomorrow we read from some of Jesus' teachings on the "Good Shepherd". We start with John 10:1-6. So many are out there who want to take advantage of us but the Good Shepherd is there for the sheep; he is there to help us. He goes ahead of us to lead the way and as we follow him and the path he has set for us we are cared for through his great love for us. Lord help us to hear Your voice as you call us and enable us to follow You in all that we do in our lives. Amen.

**Wednesday:** Today we continue reading where we left off yesterday by reading John 10:7-10. When the disciples don't get the teaching that Jesus is giving them (not understanding that he is the Good Shepherd that we read about in Psalm 23) he changes metaphors, hoping that they'll get the fact that he is much more than the type of Messiah that they were expecting. He tells them that he is the gate to the sheep. In the times of the Bible, sheep folds (where sheep spent the night) had no real gate or doorway. Instead one of the shepherds would sleep in the opening that served as the gate, protecting the sheep at night. Jesus is saying that he is the person in the doorway, he is the protector. But there is an added idea here as well. Jesus also adds that as they pass through the doorway that he is, he will allow them to enter eternal life and find that abundant life that only he can provide. Lord by hearing Your voice and following You, guide us through what You have done, to that abundant life that You provide, that includes eternity. Amen.

**Thursday:** Today we read from I Peter 2:19-25. As Peter reflects on the ministry of Jesus he recalls that Jesus is the one who committed no sin and when he went through the suffering that he went through he didn't threaten in any way. He simply entrusted himself to God the Father. Through this he gives us an example of how to deal with bad things that are beyond our control. In facing the cross like he did, Jesus not only faced suffering but he also bore our sins in his body so that, freed from our sin, we might live lives of righteousness. He did this because we were those sheep who were going astray but now, as he has won us our salvation, we have returned to the Good Shepherd who is the guardian of our souls. Lord thank you for all that You have done for us. Remind us of how bad it was not to follow You so that we can remember that it is much better to follow You than the paths that we followed prior to knowing You. Amen.

**Friday:** We need to constantly be reminded of what life with the Good Shepherd looks like, so today we read from Acts 2:42-47. This is a depiction of people who are in the flock of those who are following the Good Shepherd. Notice that the sheep aren't out wandering on their own, they are a part of a flock (a community of believers), just like the sheep lived in a flock. Lord, help us to get the metaphor of being a part of the flock, for in the flock we have support and fellowship with the other sheep as well as fellowship with You. Amen.