

Go Deeper this Week

Monday - John 17:20-21

I put on a Marine’s uniform once for a skit. Immediately, I felt more proud, more brave. What I was in impacted how I acted and felt about myself. Jesus prayed for you 2000 years ago. Pretty wild! What did he pray? He desires that we be one with him...in him as he is in God. Being in Christ changes us. We represent Jesus to all the world. How has being in Jesus changed you? Are there areas of your life that don’t match up with being in Jesus, things that don’t fit? What might you be missing by being outside Jesus?

Pray: Heavenly Father, I want to be fully in Jesus as he is in you. I surrender all I am. May all see.

Tuesday - Romans 12:1-2

I’ve got a pair of jeans I call my skinny jeans. I keep them hoping one day I’ll be skinny again and they’ll fit! As we are, we don’t fit in Christ. Paul urges followers of Jesus to allow God to change them to fit more and more in Christ. We have a choice. We can wear what fits easily, or we can become living sacrifices remade to fit perfectly in Christ. What areas of your life have changed to fit in Christ? Where are some areas you need to surrender and be transformed by God? What fears hold you back?

Pray: LORD Jesus, I want to be a living sacrifice. I offer all that I am to be transformed by you..

Wednesday - Proverbs 3:5-6

Following Jesus doesn’t always make sense. In fact, sometimes it goes against everything our world and common sense urges. Yet, God makes a promise. Trust and obey...and God will take care of everything else. God will make it work. What might God be asking you to do today? What fears do you have? Will you trust God?

Pray: Almighty God, I want to trust you and follow your ways. Help me do what you ask today.

Thursday - Job 2:1-10

You think you’ve had bad days. Poor Job! Everything went south in a flash. He lost all his children, all his stuff. Then he gets a terrible skin disease. His wife suggests its time to tap out, to give up on God and life. Just die. I’ve felt that way before. Yet Job stays faithful. Why? The simple answer is trust. Job decided to stay in God and trust God with all the circumstances and outcomes. It wasn’t easy, but it was the best. Where are you being challenged to trust today? What would happen if you simply stayed in God and trusted?

Pray: Holy Spirit, please give me the courage and conviction to trust you in all circumstances.

Friday - Psalm 37:1-9

Its not fair! Why is it that some of the worst people seem to have the easiest life? Frustration comes from being near-sighted, having a limited view of time and history. God sees all eternity. The Psalmist reminds us that God will do what is promised. Trusting God and staying in Jesus are the only way to peace, security, and ultimate joy. Where is envy causing you trouble? Ask God to remind you of what God sees and promises.

Pray: Holy Father, trusting you isn’t always easy, but I know its right. Help me stay close to you.

Saturday - Matthew 5:13-16

Its seems like such a crazy plan. God could write the Good News of Jesus in the stars, or even on our foreheads. But instead, God wants to share the truth of all God’s grace and love through us. How we live is God’s greatest message to a lost world. We’re called to be a light to a world struggling in darkness. The world only sees Jesus through us if we are in Jesus. Through whom have you seen Jesus this week? Take time to tell them. Where has God challenged you? Who has God brought to you that they may see Jesus?

Pray: LORD God, I want to be all yours, your light to our struggling world. May I be in you & you in me.

TABERNACLE

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Today’s Scripture

Psalm 23 (KJV)

(v1) The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
(v2) He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.
(v3) He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
(v4) Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
(v5) Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
(v6) Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Psalm 23 (NLT)

(v1) The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.
(v2) He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams.
(v3) He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths,
bringing honor to his name.
(v4) Even when I walk through the darkest valley,
I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me.
Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.
(v5) You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies.
You honor me by anointing my head with oil.
My cup overflows with blessings.
(v6) Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me
all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever

John 10:1-5 (NLT)

I tell you the truth, anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold, rather than going through the gate, must surely be a thief and a robber! But the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and **the sheep recognize his voice and come to him**. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. They won’t follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don’t know his voice.



Week 8
Psalm 23

Who I follow and how I follow
determines what will follow.

Write down what you hear God saying to you:

Remember: Beware! Momentary comfort can numb you to the danger
of your eternal condition.

Ask: Is it really the Good Shepherd’s voice I follow?

John 10:9-10 (NLT)

Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures. The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. **My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.**

Further Conversation

1. When you hear Psalm 23, what memory comes to mind? What does this Psalm lead you to think about?
2. **Read Psalm 23:1-6** Which line is your favorite? What action or promise of the shepherd gives you the most comfort?
3. What underlying commitment is critical to the promises found in this Psalm? Why is this commitment challenging for some?
4. **Read John 10:1-5** How do the shepherd’s sheep respond to the voice of the shepherd? Why is that?
5. There are competing voices to the shepherd’s voice in this world. How do you know you are following the voice of Jesus?
6. **Read John 10:9-10** What consequences may follow who we follow?
7. How can momentary comfort numb us to our true eternal condition? What are the things that bring you quick comfort? What are the commands of the shepherd that are most challenging to follow?

This Week’s Prayer Partner

God works in so many ways in our community and across the globe. Every month, Tabernacle commits to pray for our ministry partners. Please consider sending a note, a donation, or joining their team.

Missionaries to Thailand & India
Anup & Darcy Rai (and family)
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Live Generously

Generosity is a step of faith. If you are visiting, we welcome you and hope you enjoy your experience. If you call Tabernacle your church home, we encourage you to support the ministry with your tithes & gifts. Offering baskets are placed at each entrance door during our 9AM Service. Offering plates are passed at our 11AM Service. You can also give online with this **QR code**.

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