

4/22/2018 – More: Intimacy & Prayer

GROW GROUP HOMEWORK

Welcome to Winter/Spring 2018 sermon-based Grow Groups! To prepare for your time together, fully answer the questions below and be prepared to share your answers with the group. Have a great meeting!

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. If you are at a friend or relative's house for dinner and you find a dead insect in your salad, what would you do?

2. When did God become real to you?

3. What was impactful to you from this weekend's message?

INTO THE BIBLE

Pastor Jim said, "God wants us to know Him so intimately that we will be aligned with His heart in every situation." David wrote the 23rd Psalm. It is a great picture of that intimacy that comes from spending time with God.

LEADER: Read the entire 23rd Psalm but substitute one of your group member's names for "I", "me", and "my" in the Psalm. Say to the group: "Now, as we go through this lesson, think about putting your name in those same places. Personalize this Psalm for you."

1. Read Psalm 23:1. We see David begin this verse calling God, "The Lord." Allowing God's Lordship in our lives is tied to our surrender to Him.
 - A) For us, how do we learn that surrender to Jesus as Lord is best for our life?
 - B) Why do you think David referred to God as shepherd?
 - C) In this verse, "I shall not want" means that we will not lack what we need to carry out God's purpose. How does intimacy with God create this knowledge in your life?

2. Read Psalm 23:2.

- A) When you read these verses what comes to mind from green pastures and still waters?
- B) Why do you think it says God “makes me lie down”?

3. Read Psalm 23:3. David sees this refreshing time with God as opportunity to return vitality to His walk with God.

- A) What would you consider “paths of righteousness” to be in life?
- B) Why does God want us to walk these paths?
- C) What in this verse reminds you that even though these paths are sometimes tough to journey, we have nothing to fear?

4. Read Psalm 23:4. The phrase “shadow of death” can also be translated as deep darkness. It is not just death, but while we live Satan and his evil forces that scheme to bring pain to our lives.

- A) Fear is something presented to us from Satan why can we know never to allow fear to control us?
- B) The rod in this verse refers to the Shepherds tool that was used to ward off danger to the sheep. The staff had a crook in the end and was used to draw the sheep back from danger. How is that a comfort in our lives?

5. Read Psalm 23:5. In these last two verses David describes God as his Host. God is taking care of David in a personal and intimate way.

- A) What do you see as a significance of God preparing David’s table in the presence of David’s enemies?
- B) The oil in this verse is a reminder of God’s presence in David’s life, how can this be an encouragement for us to know we have the same blessing?
- C) What does the phrase “my cup overflows” bring to your mind in relation to being in an intimate relationship with God?

6. Read Psalm 23:6. In this last verse the goodness and mercy can best be translated "Steadfast Love". His love does not move or change for us, no matter what.

A) Explain how having knowledge that this love follows you all the days of your life effects how you live your life??

From the moment Jesus comes into our lives and changes us we are literally able to be in the presence of God through Jesus Christ. We dwell in His house and worship who He is. We do this during this short time on earth and when that time is up we get to continue to worship Him for endless days. This will be an eternal intimate relationship, don't miss out on enjoying it right now.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Think of times when God has been your shepherd and has either protected you from enemies that were pressing in, or pulled you back from decisions you were making that would harm you. First thank Him for His love and then write down a few of these moments to share with the group.

2. Do you experience times in your life when you drift away from the green pastures and still waters where God wants you to feed. How has God called you back to return to the intimacy with Him?

3. Does the actions in your life bring glory to God's name. Just doing good will not bring God's name glory, but instead living a surrendered life of obedience does. Obedience: immediate and with the right heart attitude.