

“God walks w/u no matter wat”
Series: *“Tweets You Can Live By”*
(Part 2 of 4)

Listening Guide Notes

Open: If you could take a trip with anyone, who would it be and why?

Explore: Read John 10:11-16.

Throughout the book of John, Jesus described himself using several “I am” phrases (i.e.; I am the bread of life, the light, the gate, the resurrection, the way, and the vine). On one occasion, Jesus referred to himself in terms a first century audience would have clearly understood.

1. What phrase did Jesus use to describe his character (vs. 11)? According to Jesus what is the difference between a good shepherd and an average shepherd?
2. Why did Jesus say that the hired hand would abandon the sheep (vs. 12-13)?
3. What type of relationship did Jesus say he had with His sheep (vs. 14-15)? To what did Jesus refer when he said, “...and I lay down my life for the sheep”?
4. Who are the “other sheep” referred to in this passage (vs. 16)?

Reflect: Review the LG and discuss the questions below.

1. How much or how little do you think about the fact that God is walking with you through life?
2. Whether we recognize it or not, God is responsible for everything we have. What is one way you have experienced God’s provision in the past week in which you are extremely thankful? Is there a difference between God giving us what we want, and giving us what we need?
3. Give an example of some of the methods God uses to guide our steps through life. Would you say you are seeking God’s lead more now than in the past or about the same?
4. From who or what might we need God’s protection? What could you say to, or do for someone who may be walking through a dark valley?
5. Although we have the promise that God walks with us, there are times when He seems far away. What can we do when we experience feelings that God is not present?

Live:

As a group: Break into sub-groups (men / women) then answer the following questions. As you look over the lesson notes, which point really hit home with you? Explain. How can we pray for you today?

On your own: Read Psalm 23 in the negative (“The Lord is not my shepherd...”). What verse is most disturbing? Focus on the fact that God never leaves you. Then take time to thank God for walking with you no matter what.

^[1] *“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. ^[2] He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. ^[3] He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. ^[4] 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. ^[5] Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. ^[6] Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” -Psalm 23:1-6 (KJV)*

Truths about the God who walks with us...

1. He provides.

“The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.” -Psalm 23:1 (NIV)

“He makes me lie down in green pastures.” -Psalm 23:2a (NIV)

2. He directs.

^[2b] *“...He leads me beside quiet waters, ^[3] He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.” -Psalm 23:2b-3 (NIV)*

3. He protects.

^[4] *“Even 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. ^[5a] You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.” -Psalm 23:4-5a (NIV)*

4. He never leaves.

^[5b] *“You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ^[6] Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.” -Psalm 23:5b-6 (NIV)*