

Monday — April 27

The Shepherd Who Gathers

Acts 2:42, 44

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And all who believed were together and had all things in common.

The Lord is my shepherd. Those words from Psalm 23 are among the most beloved in all of Scripture, and rightly so. There is something deeply comforting about knowing that God is for you — personally, individually, by name. But the Good Shepherd does not only gather one sheep. He gathers a flock.

When we turn to Acts 2, the picture widens. After three thousand people were baptized on Pentecost, they did not scatter back to their separate lives. They were drawn together. They devoted themselves — all of them, together — to four things: the apostles' teaching, the fellowship, the breaking of bread, and the prayers.

This week, we will walk through each of those four devotions, one at a time. But today, simply sit with the opening image: the Good Shepherd who does not leave His flock scattered. Because Jesus rose from the dead, His people are gathered. Not just saved individually, but called into a shared life. The resurrection creates community.

This week's devotions invite your family to ask an honest question: do we live more like lone sheep — or like a flock? You may find that the answer is more complicated, and more hopeful, than you expected.

Discussion Questions

1. When you think about your faith, do you tend to think of it as mostly a personal, private thing — or as something you share with others? Why?
2. What do you think it means that the first Christians in Acts were "together"? What does being together require?
3. The resurrection is what gathered the early church. How does knowing Jesus is risen change how we think about belonging to one another?

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd who laid down Your life for the sheep. Thank You that You did not save us to wander alone, but gathered us into Your flock. This week, open our eyes to the life we share with Your people. Teach us to belong to one another as You have made us Your own. Amen.

Family Action Item

Before the week is done, make a list together as a family of three people from your church who have shaped your faith. At dinner tonight, share one name from your list and say why that person matters to you. Let that be a small reminder that none of us became who we are alone.