

SERIES 3: PRAISE YE THE LORD

# 3.2

## THE LORD WATCHES OVER US

### **TRUTH ABOUT GOD**///

The Lord is my Shepherd.

#### **SERIES AIM**

The Book of Psalms provides us with great insight and encouragement in a number of areas for our walk with God. The series will look at the way the psalms direct our Christian lifestyle.

#### **BIBLICAL PASSAGE**

Psalm 23:1-6

#### **LESSON BIG IDEA**

I will follow the Lord and enjoy His protection and provision.

### **WHERE DO WE BEGIN?**///

When God is our Shepherd, we experience His goodness and mercy! Because He is good, He protects us from all that is evil. He guards our hearts and minds and helps us make the right decisions. Because He is merciful, He provides for all of our needs. He makes sure we are never in want, but we have everything necessary to sustain both our body and our spirit.

If we want access to those great benefits, we must decide to follow the Lord and enjoy His protection and provision. We must submit to the way that He is leading us and trust that He has our best interests at heart.



## WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? ///

The following questions, devotions, and action points can be used any way that you feel comfortable. We suggest that you use a journal, your notes app on your phone, or even the spaces provided in this daily devotional book to take notes, write answers, and make lists. The purpose of this resource is simply to give you a space to interact with the Word of God and reflect on what you learn from that experience.

/// When has true, biblical love been shown to you?

/// When have you shown true, biblical love to someone else?

/// What are some things needed to truly love someone?

/// How do we show that kind of love to God?

# DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE ///

## HE PROTECTS US

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Read Psalm 23:1.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want

Do you have needs? What is stopping you from taking them to God? Traditionally, sheep are not all that special or extraordinary, but what they are is loyal to their master. The shepherd cared for his sheep and gave them everything they ever needed to survive. He protected them and sheered their wool when it became too much for them to carry. The shepherd provided everything they needed to survive. That is why the image of Jesus as our Shepherd is so important and true to form. He cares for us, protects us, provides for us, and above all He takes away our burdens when they are too much for us to carry. Everything you could ever want or need is found in Jesus.

**Jr. High ///** What things has God given you and your family?

**Sr. High ///** Count your blessings, literally. Take some time to identify things that God has blessed you and your family with.

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Read Psalm 23:2.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

Jesus is our comfort and peace. He knows our troubles, and He knows what problems attack our hearts and minds each day. Thankfully, He also knows everything that soothes our minds and brings our hearts peace. No matter what you're going through, no matter what you're dealing with, Jesus has all the answers. There is nothing too complex or broken for Him to fix, no life too lost to redeem. When we are at our very worst and have nowhere to turn, Jesus is our rescue and on Him we can cast all our cares and fears.

**Jr. High ///** Make a list of some things in life that you are afraid of. Make a point to pray about these fears and ask God for help in overcoming them.

**Sr. High ///** Make a list of some fear and uncertainties you have had this year. Take a moment to pray for strength and understanding and ask God to help you deal with these fears.

## HE PROTECTS US

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

#### Read Psalm 23:3.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

God restores us in every area of our lives. No matter if we are struggling with loss, depression, anger, or something even worse, God's promise is that He will help to restore and renew our hearts and minds in a way that no one else can. It's important to have people around you to help you. However, we should understand that true, lasting changes come from God. He will send you people to push you closer to Him. He will have you make some hard decisions that push you closer to Him. Sometimes God may even take things away from you because it will cause you to look at your life and realize that you need Him to make you new. If we let God work on us, we will leave His presence better than we came.

**Jr. High ///** Have you ever had anything taken away from you because it was for your own good?

**Sr. High ///** What are some things that you have had taken away or have given up so that you could have a better, healthier lifestyle?

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18

#### Read Psalm 23:4.

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.

We live in a world in which evil is everywhere. The news is full of horrible acts of violence, and it's clear that people have trouble recognizing the difference between right and wrong. There was once a time in our world where some people felt you could go to sleep with your doors unlocked (though for some that was never the case), but unfortunately sin has grown so much, that even locks on your doors aren't enough to stop the evil from getting in. Our only hope and safety is found in Jesus. When temptation comes or when we are cornered by life's problems, only Jesus can lead us through the darkness into His marvelous light. Only Jesus can give us peace when the world is falling around us. When we find our peace in Jesus, there is nothing that can truly harm us.

**Jr. High ///** List some things that are beneficial in fighting temptation.

**Sr. High ///** What are some things that help you personally fight against temptation and overcome sin?

## HE PROTECTS US

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19

#### Read Psalm 23:5–6.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. 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.

The psalmist is incredibly thankful for the blessings the Lord has given. Despite being surrounded by enemies and being confronted by life's problems, we can know God is still good and provides a place of comfort and rest. Wherever the psalmist goes, he is followed by the goodness and blessings of God. It might seem like we hear it a lot, but when we are invested in God and His plan, things just work out. The psalmist saw that blessings and incredible miracles were happening everywhere around him when he followed the Lord. This isn't a coincidence, and if something miraculous happens in your life, you need to realize it didn't happen by chance. When we have the name of Jesus all over our lives, incredible things are going to happen—not only for you, but also for everyone around you.

**Jr. High ///** Ask around your friends, family, and church to hear some peoples' stories and the miracles that God has done for them.

**Sr. High ///** Talk to friends and family about miracles that God has done for them. Write down some of these examples, and then think about instances where God did something miraculous for you.

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20

#### Read Hebrews 13:8.

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

This verse is so important to the way we view God. It seems like people look at God in the Old Testament and find what they think are differences between the way He acted then and the way that Jesus acted in the New Testament. To be clear, God and Jesus are one, and He is the same, consistent every day, without exception. So do you need a little consistency in your life? Let's just agree to give God a chance today; let all your problems and sin fall at His feet. He isn't looking to tear you down or throw some plagues at you, but He is that same Jesus that loved and healed so many. He is unchanging, and His love for you is unwavering.

**Jr. High ///** In a private space, take some time to just sit and talk to God. Let Him talk to you in return. Journal about what you feel.

**Sr. High ///** Take a few minutes to sit and pray in a prayer closet or private place. Thank God for who He is and ask for Him to speak to you. Journal about what you felt.

## NOTES///

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