

July 1, 2015

# FAMILY DEVOTIONS

"THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD.  
I HAVE ALL THAT I NEED.  
HE LETS ME REST IN GREEN MEADOWS.  
HE LEADS ME TO PEACEFUL STREAMS.  
HE RENEWS MY STRENGTH.  
HE GUIDES ME ALONG RIGHT PATHS,  
BRINGING HONOR TO HIS NAME."

PSALM 23:1-3 NLT



## REST IN THE LORD



"The Lord is my Shepherd. I have all that I need. He lets me rest in green meadows. He leads me to peaceful streams. He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to His name." Psalm 23:1-3

David does not identify what circumstances surrounded him...nor does he identify what incident or event prompted him in this song of adoration, this song of praise and thanksgiving...a song of experiential affirmation of the greatness and the goodness of His One True God...his Shepherd King.

It is suggested that King David may have penned the twenty-third Psalm in his old age, as a remembrance and tribute to testify to the faithfulness of his Shepherd King. From his own experience as a shepherd boy, how well he understood his own role as protector, as provider, as promise-keeper to his sheep, the sheep entrusted to his care...Young David would daily lead them to a green pasture for nourishment, watching over them every moment to protect them from the relentless predators, watching over them so that not one would stray, diligently pursuing the lost one...searching, searching until it was found and safely returning it to the flock.

King David, in the midst of life circumstances, had a beautiful and authentic relationship with his Shepherd King who was his Protector, his Provider, his Promise-keeper...who always lead him into peaceful rest...ahhh yes...peace-filled rest! He understood the value of the shepherd in the lives of his sheep...and he understood the value and the blessing of his Shepherd King in his own life...

And your Shepherd King is your Protector, your Provider, your Promise-keeper...leading you and each mom...each dad...each child...into His peace-filled REST!

# FAMILY IS GOD'S IDEA...AND OUR FATHER KNOWS BEST!

The truth is that our Shepherd King loves the family. Just as He protects and provides for His individual child, He has the same passion and heart for the family and for His flock...And, He gives to us as parents the responsibility to protect and to provide for our families. Family Time is one of those gifts and opportunities and responsibilities for which we are accountable because it is crucial to the health and well-being of the children and for each family member.

Family Times look different for each family. Family Time comes in different shapes and sizes depending on the circumstances of life-styles and vocations. Parents have the privilege and the responsibility to create and to own their schedules and their Family Time, utilizing the unique opportunities and circumstances within their lives.

The truth is that fathers, that mothers are given the role as shepherd in the family...providing protection and provision...and being the promise-keepers... leading their precious ones along the path of right-living...toward the Shepherd King... the Promise-Keeper!

May we as parents, always remember that our families are unique; our children are fearfully and wonderfully made by the Creator of the universe... each child with different needs...different smiles...different laughter. Our Family Time will look different...Our Family Time should not be compared to our friends' Family Time.

The truth is that there will be seasons in our lives when we celebrate summer with "stay-cations" and our friends are traveling. And we may travel when other families remain at home. The most important thing to remember as you plan your Summer Time is to focus on the people rather than the schedule...focus on the needs within the family...Just as King David devoted himself to his Shepherd King, regardless of the circumstances in his life, when he was the shepherd boy tending to the needs of his flock and when He was the great King David, a man "after God's own heart", he devoted himself to his Shepherd King.

May we focus on the best plan for our individual family which considers the ages and the stages of our family members, which encourages Family connection with one another, and which encourages Family connection with the Lord, the Shepherd of our lives. After all, our family is part of His flock.

I pray that you remember to intentionally make Family Time opportunities... and to take unexpected Family Time opportunities... That you remember to watch for them, to plan for them, to thank God for them... and to celebrate Family Time! I pray that you find REST in the presence of our Shepherd King who is faithful to lead you and your family. Enjoy your moments... Count your blessings...

"The Lord is my Shepherd. I have all that I need. He lets me rest in green meadows. He leads me to peaceful streams. He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to His name." Psalm 23:1-3

## REST IN THE LORD!

Grab your Bible, journal, a pen and some TIME.

Invite your children to do the same...and enjoy the print-outs included for the young ones. (You will need their crayons or markers!) Then gather around the kitchen table or throw out a blanket on the lawn.

### APPLICATION

Read Psalm 23 with your family. Use a children's translation if possible.

Discuss the responsibilities of a shepherd as he or she cares for sheep. Then, explain that our Shepherd King does the same thing for His children...for His sheep, for each one of us when we trust in Him!

A Family Day journal is a wonderful way of recording every person's favorite moment of the Family Day. A journal is passed around in the evening, at dinner, or before bed. Each family member records their favorite occurrence or most memorable experience of the day...and for the ones too young to write, they can dictate their answers...

Create a Family Song or Psalm praising and thanking God for his faithfulness and for the specific things which he has done in your family. Or, just list them in your Family Journal. Your family is unique...

Then, enjoy the amazing experience of looking back over the years...reading what each one experienced and appreciated and remembering the great and the mighty things God has done in the lives of your family members. I promise that there will be laughter and sweet memories...