

International Bible Lesson

Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Jesus Always Leads Us on the Right Paths April 2, 2017 Psalms 23:1-6

"He refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake" (Psalms 23:3).

As David experienced before he wrote this beloved Psalm, the Good Shepherd leads His followers into quiet times for both physical and spiritual refreshment. He gives comfort and peace to those who will rest in Him and trust Him with their cares. He protects, defends, and saves His sheep from many enemies—both mortal and spiritual. He saves those who trust Him from sin and spiritual death. He offers goodness, mercy, love, and an eternal home in the house of the Lord to all who will follow Him wherever He leads. Sometimes He leads us on pleasant paths of contemplation, when He teaches us how to apply His words and works. While following Him, He prepares us for those "other times" when He will lead us on paths through perilous places. Whether we are on delightful or dangerous paths, when He is leading we are always on the right paths. Jesus Christ will often rescue us from taking the wrong paths, so we will not dishonor God by turning back to worldly ways. Jesus represented the love and truth of God on pleasant mountainsides and feasted with those who came to see and hear Him. He taught and lovingly saved His disciples when they felt threatened on stormy seas. When on trial for His life, Jesus stayed true to His Father. Jesus may lead us to walk paths similar to His; and if we must walk among fearful enemies that threaten to undo us, He will walk with us. Whether on pleasant or perilous paths, the Good Shepherd will only lead us on right paths, so we can always honor God by following Jesus Christ.

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Thinking Further

1. If you say the Lord Jesus Christ is your Shepherd, how should you behave?

- 2. Why does the Shepherd guide you in right paths?
- 3. Explain why you need not fear evil when you are following Jesus.
- 4. Why do the Shepherd's rod and staff comfort you?
- 5. If you follow Jesus, what will follow you all the days of your life?

Begin or close your class by reading the short weekly *International Bible Lesson*.

Read the <u>International Bible Lessons Commentary</u> on this *International Bible Lesson*.

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