



The Shepherd

- Focus** God is our Shepherd, and we are His sheep. As our Shepherd, He provides for us and protects us.
- Open** The Bible calls us sheep. If you had to describe yourself as an animal, what animal do you think reflects you best and why?
- Talk**
1. Read Ezekiel 34:11–16. Why do you think God uses the shepherd and sheep analogy to describe His relationship with us? In what ways is God like a shepherd? In what ways are we like sheep?
 2. What things in your life do you seem to worry about most often? Why is it so hard for us to trust God sometimes?
 3. Read Psalm 115:9–11 and Proverbs 3:5. What do you think it means to trust in the Lord? What is one way you've put your trust in the Lord?
 4. Read Psalm 23:1 and Matthew 6:31–34. God promises to take care of us. What are three ways God has shown His provision for you this past year?
 5. How does praising God for His past and current provision in your life strengthen your faith that He will provide in the future? What can we do in a practical way to help increase our trust in God's provision for us?
 6. Read 2 Peter 1:3. According to this scripture, God has given us all things we need for life and godliness. What is one thing in your future you are thankful God will provide for you? (Make a faith declaration!)
 7. Read Psalm 23:4–5, Psalm 20:1–2 and Psalm 32:7. What are three things God has protected you from in your past? How does this help increase your faith for His protection in your future? What is one thing you want to proclaim that God will protect you from in the future?

Live

1. When we draw near to Jesus, we are more apt to trust Him, see His provision and walk in protection. What does this look like on a daily basis? What do you do to stay close to the Shepherd?
2. Read Psalm 23:5–6. God’s goodness pursues us. What is something good God has done in your life this past month?
3. Often we are discouraged when we forget about God’s good proclamations over us. Have you ever read a scripture about God’s care for you that has encouraged you? Share it if you remember it.
4. What will you do this week to continually remind yourself about God’s proclamations of protection and provision for you? Take time this week to read about God’s proclamations and blessings over you.

Pray

Read Deuteronomy 28:1–6. Divide into pairs (either individually or as a couple pair with another couple). Proclaim and pray blessings—including blessings of provision and protection—over one another.