

# INTIMACY THROUGH LIFE EXPERIENCE

# Walking with God as Shepherd

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Often we expect God to only teach us about Himself in His Word, but God has a plan to use our life experiences to draw us closer to Himself. Use this tool to see how God does this in the life of some famous Biblical characters.

"I myself will tend my sheep and give them a place to lie down in peace, says the Sovereign LORD. I will search for my lost ones who strayed away, and I will bring them safely home again. I will bandage the injured and strengthen the weak...So I will rescue my flock, and they will no longer be abused. I will judge between one animal of the flock and another. And I will set over them one shepherd, my servant David. He will feed them and be a shepherd to them. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David will be a prince among my people. I, the LORD, have spoken!...You are my flock, the sheep of my pasture. You are my people, and I am your God. I, the Sovereign LORD, have spoken!" — Ezekiel 34

### **DISCUSSION: Life**

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2. How do we typically interpret difficult seasons of life?

3. What are our specific escapes during difficult seasons?

4. What could God be teaching us about Himself through those seasons?

5. How does God shepherd us through life?

#### **STUDY: Text**

1. Abraham — Gen. 12:1-9, 15:1-21, 17:1-21

- a.
- b.
- C.
- d.

2. Moses — Exodus 2:23-4:17, 6:1-13, 33:7-34:35

- b.
- C.
- d.

3. David — 1 Samuel 17, 30:6; 2 Samuel 7:8-29; Psalm 3, 4, 23, 27, 28

- a.
- b.
- C.
- d.

4. Paul - 2 Cor. 1:3-22, 4:1-5:10, 11:21b-12:21; Philippians 1:12-26

- a.
- b.
- C.
- d.

# **DISCUSSION: Text & Life**

1.	How does God reveal Himself as shepherd in the lives of these biblical characters? (Through times of difficulty and blessing)
2.	What are the results when these characters look horizontally at their own problems and solutions?
3.	What causes us to miss what God is trying to reveal about Himself?
4.	What about when they look vertically? What do they learn as a result?
5.	How does He lead them to faith? To trusting in His promises?
6.	How has life asked you lately, "What do you really believe about God?"
7.	How has God the Shepherd been revealing Himself to you lately?

## **APPLICATION: Takeaway Principles**

If I decide to trust God...

- Life adjustments will be necessary.
- There will be crises of faith.
- It will take grit.
- I must look vertically, not horizontally.
- I will be forced out of my comfort and into my courage zone.

## GOD'S HIGHWAY || By Sandra McCracken

My feet are strong, my eyes are clear

I cannot see the way from here

But on we go, He knows the way

And in His arms, He keeps me safe.

Fear not, keep on, watch and pray

Walk in the light of God's highway

The shadows flee, The valley is deep

But evil cannot conquer me

Your rod and staff, They protect me

You give me rest, You give me peace

I see the shore, from troubled seas

This tiny ship that carries me

It is not yet, But it will be

So heaven come, It's you we need

I'm holding onto you, Lord

You're holding onto me...

I'm holding onto you, Love

You're holding onto me...

