

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on thorncreek.church/live)

Warming up

1. What do you think of how hot it has been this summer?

Digging Deeper & Application

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

2. Please read Psalm 23. What are your initial thoughts? What do you see?
 - a. What does verse one mean to you?
 - b. What does the word, "My" tell you about David's relationship with God?
 - c. Could you say the same thing?
3. "Information about God is a poor substitute for intimacy with God." (Lisa Harper). What does this quote mean to you?
4. "When the Devil sees that you are never satisfied you are vulnerable to him." (Wayne Cordeiro). What do you think this quote means?
5. Verse two says, "He makes me lie down..." Do you think there are times when God "makes you or us" to do things? Thoughts?
6. In this passage you see God's desire for us to experience rest. Compare this message with this quote from John Ortberg. "I cannot rest in God with a hurried soul."
7. What are your thoughts about this contemporary version of Psalm 23? "The clock is my dictator, I shall not rest. It makes me lie down only when exhausted. It leads me into deep depression, it hounds my soul. It leads me in circles of frenzy for activities' sake. Even though I run frantically from task to task, I will never get it all done, for my "ideal" is with me. Deadlines and my need for approval, they drive me. They demand performance from me, beyond the limits of my schedule. They anoint my head with migraines, my in-basket overflows. Surely fatigue and time pressure shall follow me all the days of my life. And I will dwell in the bonds of frustration forever."
8. In verse four, David stops talking about God, and starts talking to God. What does he say?
9. Compare Psalm 23 with John 10:1-15. What do you see?

Application

Below are some of the points or quotes shared in the message.
Discuss how they apply to your life.

- You were hard-wired for a relational intimacy with God.
- We can call ourselves a "Christian" but...
 - Your story will become part of God's story.
 - Not be willing to die to ourselves.
 - Not be willing to serve Him every day.
 - Not be willing to forgive my enemy.
 - Not be willing to surrender our time to God.
 - Not be willing to serve His church.
- Sometimes God will let you get broken so that you can learn what it's like to be carried by Him.
- God wants to restore you. The devil wants to try to convince you that you could never go back:
 - Your story will become part of God's story.
 - You could never be that person that you thought you could be.
 - You could never be truly happy again.
- !!! God knows how to restore !!!
 - Your story will become part of God's story.
 - Your weakness will reveal God's strength.
 - Your mess will show off God's grace.
 - God will restore you with joy.
 - Peace.
- Jesus will never let you down.