

DAVID THE PSALMIST

There is rest in the presence of the Lord.



THE STORY: PSALM 23:1-3, 2 SAM. 7:1-17

MONDAY

God satisfies my desires

God satisfies my desires – In 2 Samuel 7, all the enemies of Israel had been conquered, the Ark was back in Jerusalem, and David was at rest in his own house. This season of rest might have reminded David of a shepherd giving rest to his flock. David declared in the 23rd Psalm “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want”.

David’s biggest desire was to glorify God by building a new house for the Lord. In those days, the Ark was still dwelling in Moses’ tent (2 Samuel 7:1-17). God saw David’s righteous desire. So the Lord spoke to the prophet Nathan who brought encouragement to David from the Lord. God told David that He had made him king and given him rest from his enemies. God then promised David that, through him, God would establish his throne forever. When we want to glorify God, other earthly “wants” fade in comparison.

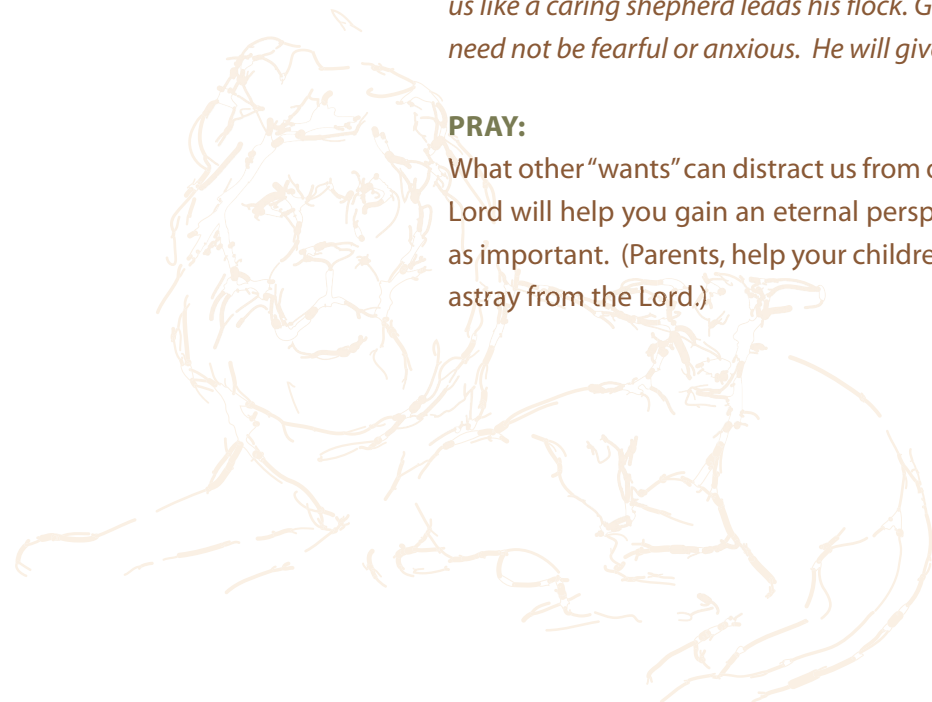
TALK ABOUT IT:

What do you desire or want? *(Often people worry about what they will eat or wear, who their friends are, and what people think of them. People tend to worry about money, their jobs, and many other things.)*

When we trust in the Lord and want what He wants, do we still want the other things as much? *(No. Our earthly desires fade away. It helps to remember that the Lord leads us like a caring shepherd leads his flock. God is in control of everything. He is good. We need not be fearful or anxious. He will give us what we need.)*

PRAY:

What other “wants” can distract us from our relationship with the Lord? Pray that the Lord will help you gain an eternal perspective and make important what God sees as important. *(Parents, help your children here to see where their desires lead them astray from the Lord.)*





Saul hunted David and wanted to kill him.

In 1 Samuel 23:15-29, Saul hunted David and wanted to kill him. Just as David began to grow weaker, God sent Jonathan to David. Jonathan comforted and encouraged David and spoke a prophetic word to him.

Saul conspired with the local Ziphites to find David. At one point Saul and his men were on one side of a mountain while David and his men were on the other. We are reminded of the 23rd Psalm again. David was walking through a valley -- a valley of the shadow of death. Saul closed in on David, obviously aware of David's location. Just when it appeared that David would be found, God sent the Philistines to attack the land of Israel. Saul was forced to return to his kingdom. Surely events like this served to strengthen David's confidence and silence his fears. Even while he was fleeing Saul in the valley, God protected David.

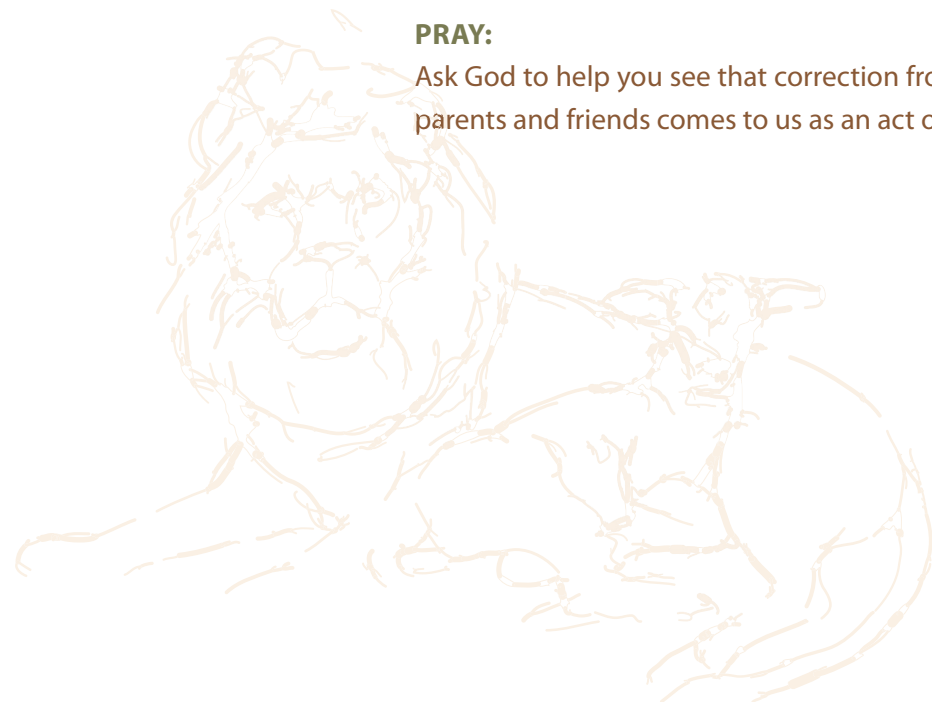
TALK ABOUT IT:

Can you think of ways the Lord has protected you? *(Parents, help your children see that even their good health is a protection from disease or having clothing a protection from exposure to the elements.)*

God's rod is mentioned in this psalm. God's rod is an instrument of correction. How can that be comforting? *(God only uses His rod to keep us away from evil and sin. Though the rod, God's correction, can be painful at times, it yields a harvest of righteousness in our lives).*

PRAY:

Ask God to help you see that correction from the Lord, from the scriptures, or from parents and friends comes to us as an act of kindness.





Where is Jesus?

Luke tells us about Zechariah's song in Luke 1:69-75. Like David, Zechariah spoke of one who would save us from our enemies and redeem us. This salvation would come from the house of David and lead God's people into paths of righteousness.

The birth of Jesus was just months away. He would come to shepherd His people. Jesus called Himself the good shepherd. He said,

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me - just as the Father knows me and I know the Father - and I lay down my life for the sheep" (John 10:14-15).

TALK ABOUT IT:

Who does Luke identify as the horn of salvation? (*Jesus*)

How is Jesus a shepherd to us? (*Jesus cares for us and saves us from our enemies -- sin and death -- just like a shepherd protects his sheep from their enemies. Jesus also leads us to the best pasture -- heaven. There we will live securely with no enemies.*)

PRAY:

Thank the Lord that He is our shepherd and that he cares for us.



David ends Psalm 23 with a faith-filled statement

David ends Psalm 23 with a faith-filled statement: He knows that God's goodness will follow him all his life. Then David says something quite amazing. He proclaims that he will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. There is only one way anyone can live with God in His most holy place forever and that is if his sins are taken away. David looked forward to a day when all cares, all enemies, and all sin would be wiped away and we would dwell with God forever. David looked to a day of salvation that would come through David's lineage. Notice the similarity between Psalm 23 and Psalm 27:1-4.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How are both of these Psalms the same? *(They both talk about trusting God in the midst of difficult situations. They both speak of a hope in God for the future.)*

Why do you think both Psalms are very similar? *(The themes of these Psalms come directly from David's life. David had to flee Saul who was literally trying to kill him – the theme of salvation from his enemies made its way into David's music. Also, David's love for the Lord was very real. David loved to sing about it.)*

If you were going to write a song (psalm) to the Lord, what kinds of things would you want to sing to him? *(Parents, help your children go a bit deeper with this question.)*

PRAY:

Have everyone pray or sing about the things they suggested.



THE STORY: 2 SAMUEL 7:4-17

FRIDAY

On the road to Emmaus.

Jesus is the prophesied offspring of David whose throne will last forever. Jesus also established the church, which is His body. This is where His Spirit lives in the hearts of all believers. In David's and Jesus' day, a man-made temple was God's house. Now, the new temple of God is in the hearts of Christians.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Although this passage points to Jesus, who else is Nathan referring to in this passage? *(Nathan, the prophet, is referring to Solomon [who will build a house for God and be disciplined for his sin] and Jesus [who will be a King in the line of David forever].)*

How can Nathan be referring to both Solomon and Jesus? *(Prophecies in the Old Testament often have a dual meaning. There is usually a more immediate fulfillment in the short term, and then, in addition, there is often a longer term reference which Christ alone fulfills. God is able to work all of history together according to His master plan!)*

PRAY:

Thank God for the way He directs history to accomplish His plan.

