

(NEW) NORMAL

Big Idea

Pastor Curt

Virtually all of us are living differently now than we did five months ago. Soon we'll be living a new normal that is different from our current normal. What will be the new normal for: church, school, grocery stores, greeting each other, RT 30 traffic, spending time with family, spending time with God, TV, face coverings, etc. All this can be viewed as a step up for God to do a great work, not a setback, to be the church's "finest hour" and a new season for us.

How do we get prepared for the next step? Pastor Curt said, "When we get into some kind of situation or some kind of stress our view of God can become distorted causing our life to become disoriented. I want to re-center us, bring us back, to reorient us in our relationship with God. Open up your heart and let the Holy Spirit speak to you, speak specific things to where you at. God is the Good Shepherd and we are His sheep."

Calling us sheep is not flattering because sheep get lost, get attacked, get dirty and get stuck and yet, we do the same. We need a spiritual shepherd because we can't guide ourselves out, we can't protect ourselves, we can't clean ourselves, and we can't fix ourselves. Pastor Curt takes us through Psalm 23 explaining how God our Good Shepherd provides for us, protects us, and promises us His goodness and mercy while dwelling with Him.

Discussion Questions

- What did you learn about sheep?
- Have you ever seen people mimic sheep? In which way?
- As you look at your life, which of the three things that the shepherd does, are you most in need of and why?
- Read Psalm 23:5 – Who have you allowed to sit at your table?
- What steps will you take today to trust the provision, protection and promises of God today?

Prayer Focus

Jesus, thank You for being my Great Shepherd. Help me to trust you so that I can experience who you really are, and when I do, thank you that I can live with freedom and purpose. Help me grow spiritually closer to You and desire You more than anything else. Show me any changes You want to me to make in my spiritual life, and help me actively pursue those changes.

Next Steps

Tank an honest look at your life and see how you might be acting like a sheep. Run to your Shepherd, Jesus, ask Him to reveal your next steps to grow in your relationship with Him, and take action!

Leader Tip

As we intentionally extend our semester during this season, look to identify another leader within your group and then make plans to begin to develop them. Share the leadership opportunities with them and then be willing to walk with them through the process.