

APRIL 17, 2016
FOURTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER

taking+
faith
home

Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.

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| Sunday | John 10:22-30 | Jesus promises life to his sheep |
| Monday | Psalms 23 | The Lord is my shepherd |
| Tuesday | Ezekiel 34:1-31 | The promise of a shepherd |
| Wednesday | Matthew 18:10-14 | Parable of the lost sheep |
| Thursday | Jeremiah 23:1-4 | God will gather his sheep |
| Friday | Micah 2:12-13 | Deliverance promised |
| Saturday | Psalms 100 | We are God's sheep |
| Sunday | John 13:31-35 | Love one another |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

My sheep know my voice, and I know them. They follow me, and I give them eternal life, so that they will never be lost. No one can snatch them out of my hand. **John 10:27-28 (CEV)**

SAY, PRAY, AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord, we will not be afraid, for you are close beside us. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort us. Amen. (Psalm 23:4)

Mealtime Prayer:

Shepherd God, we have all we need—food for our mouths and rest for our souls. Thanks be to you! Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's goodness and love be with you each day of your life, and may you live in God's house forever. Amen. (Psalm 23:6)



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CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

- Who do you listen to? What do you learn from them?
- Where do you feel safe? Why?
- Jesus calls us his sheep and says that no one can snatch us away from his hand. What do you think he means?
- In what ways do you experience Jesus as your Good Shepherd?

DEVOTIONS



Traditionally, *Good Shepherd Sunday* is associated with prayers for people who serve in specific ministry roles in the church. Use your home devotion times this week to pray for those God uses to shepherd the people. Here are some suggestions for each day:

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Monday: | Church leaders |
| Tuesday: | Pastors |
| Wednesday: | Teachers |
| Thursday: | Church musicians |
| Friday: | Missionaries and evangelists |
| Saturday: | Chaplains |

SERVICE



In Acts 9:36-43, we read about a Christian woman named Dorcas who was “always doing good and helping the poor.” Designate this week as “Dorcas Week” in your home. Donate some grocery items to a food pantry or plan a way to raise funds for a charity assisting the poor in your community.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Scripture memorization is a good tradition to develop. When family and friends work together to memorize Bible verses, they are able to support and encourage one another, and even come to relish the challenge. This week, aim to memorize Psalm 23. Start by learning the first verse, and then add a verse each day.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org