

Week #4

Scripture Focus – **Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.**

Meditation -

Translating the ancient Hebrew, the “valley of the shadow of death” isn’t quite accurate. The Hebrew word is *sal-ma-wet* which means darkness. Some have translated this meaningful text as “dark shadow.” In either case, the root word alludes to death. That’s why many Bibles translate it as “the valley of the shadow of death.”

Thinking about God’s presence in the midst of the most difficult darkness of life can give us hope and comfort. When the darkness of fear, depression, financial hardship, addiction, loss, poor health, broken relationships, and even death descend upon us, as they inevitably will, we can rely on the Good Shepherd to see us through those deathly shadows to new life and light.

Kid Connection -

- We love to keep things close to us when we are afraid. Find that special item you like to keep close to you. Tell the item all about God and how He protects us. Tell the item what you are afraid of right now. Then say a prayer thanking God for being our Shepherd who protects and comforts.
- Listen to this song often to help you learn the 23rd Psalm! Create your own motions to help you remember God’s promises.

[Click to Listen to 23rd Psalm Song](#)



Questions to Ponder -

God is our protector. What does that mean to you?

From what do you need protection?

When was the last time you felt God protecting you?

Song -

[I Am Not Alone by Kari Jobi](#)

Prayer -

Lord God, we as a people are facing dark and challenging times. Help me to turn to you and find comfort and solace in your strength and guidance. Help me to learn and find joy from the lessons that you provide. Give me courage to proclaim your Good News for all to hear, and to spread your love to everyone with whom I have the opportunity to speak. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

pray continually

Each One, Reach One

Take a photograph that symbolizes this week’s focus that you find in your everyday surroundings.

Send the photo to St. Paul’s to be used in a future church service.