

## MOTHERHOOD IN PSALM 23



## PRECEPT

## PSALM 23:1-3

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. <sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, <sup>3</sup> he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. <sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

## JAMES 1:19

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.

## PROMISE

Psalm 23 is probably the best-known and best-loved of all the sacred songs or hymns found in the Bible, and it is a wonderful image where we are the sheep and God is the shepherd.

Shepherds do three things: they preside, provide, and protect. First, they preside or lead us. The Psalmist says that the Shepherd leads us to green pastures, still waters, and on true paths that enable us to bear witness to the abilities and character of God. Secondly, the Shepherd provides for our deepest needs. The Psalmist says "He restores my soul", which literally means to be brought back to full healthiness of life. And finally, the Shepherd protects us, defends us, and provides safety. The Psalmist says that even when we walk through dark valleys – literally the "valley of death's shadows" – we can have courage because God is with us.

Women are the bearers of the image of God – a God who presides, provides, and protects – just as the Psalmist describes in Psalm 23. When we think of women, and for that matter, all those that "mother" others, let us remember this: we are never lost with the Shepherd by our side and that all who "mother" are the embodiment of the Shepherd. The Bible is very clear on the strengths of women who guide with wisdom, nurture with compassion, and protect with fierceness. We are reminded in the Bible that they raise and teach kings, protect and deliver the people, deal with tyrants, and reign with Christ!

**GOD'S COMFORTING ARMS IS MY MOM.** Most of us can agree that our mother's touch and hug are the most tangible comfort that we can receive from God. A mother's presence is especially comforting during difficult times. Her support can help alleviate fears and provide reassurance. Much like the shepherd's rod and staff offer protection and guidance, a mother's love and wisdom are sources of comfort and strength for her children as we face our own "dark valleys."

**GOD'S DISCIPLINING HANDS IS MY MOM.** God loves us passionately. When we have done something wrong, our mother can be angry with us because she knows that we are capable of doing better things, and they would also do their best to help us. That is the same way with God, for He wants to help us, not hurt us. He wants us to have the best things in life and experience the best things in life, but sadly, due to our stubbornness, we can be exposed to some negative things in our lives.

**GOD'S LOVING ARMS IS MY MOM.** God is our protector and our shield. He fights for us, provides for us, and loves us even when we don't know it. The same is true with our mothers. Our mothers pray for us even when we don't know it, and protects us with every ounce of their being.

In essence, Psalm 23 beautifully encapsulates the nurturing, guiding, and protective nature of motherhood. Just as God is depicted as a shepherd who provides, restores, and comforts, a mother similarly embodies these qualities for her children, ensuring our well-being, guiding us through life's challenges, and offering unwavering support and love.

## PRACTICE

**1. Mother's Love.** In what ways does your mother's love show you what God's love is like?

**2. Day for Mothers.** In your own little ways, how will you show your appreciation to your mother this week?

## PRAYER

## I. North Life Groups

- Pray for these couples as they lead the North groups: Ocampo & Ico.

## II. East Life Groups

- Pray for these couples as they lead the East groups: Torres & Domingo.

## III. South Life Groups

- Pray for the Drapeza couple as they lead the South groups.

## IV. West Life Groups

- Pray for these couples as they lead the West groups: Solidum & Fabregas.

## V. Circles

- Pray for Manalo couple as they continue to lead our singles and youth to God & His Word.

## VI. Faith

- Pray for passion, courage, & boldness to step out in faith.

## VII. Young Couples

- Pray for these couples as they lead the Young Couples' groups: Imperial, Padilla, & Oliveros,