

PEACE IN / PEACE OUT

LESSON 6 // PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Big Idea: Thinking about the future can be very stressful. Trying to imagine what's coming around the next corner can be frustrating and frightening.

In Psalm 23 David describes his journey through the “valley of the shadow of death” when he didn't know the specifics of the next stage of his life. Despite the challenges and uncertainties he faced, David was confident about his future because he knew the Good Shepherd would lead and take care of him. We can also be confident about our future as we trust the Lord our Shepherd who goes before us, prepares the way for us and helps us succeed—now and in the future.

***Psalm 23:1-5 (NIV)** The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, ³ he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*

Start Talking:

- What event have you looked forward to that has been altered by COVID-19? How will it be different now?
- If you could go back two months, what is one thing that you would do to prepare for the stay-at-home order?

Start Thinking:

- **Read Psalm 40:5 and Hebrews 4:15-16.** From these verses, we know that God has plans for us, and when we face challenges we can find grace and mercy to help us. Despite this truth, many Christians wrestle with fear and anxiety surrounding the future, why?
- One of the points shared this weekend by Pastor Dale was “Our Shepherd Goes Before Us”. What does this mean to you? Why is this significant and how should it impact how we approach the future?
- **Read Psalm 23:5.** David writes that God, our Shepherd, prepares our tomorrows. What can you do to remind yourself of this regularly? What would life look like if we prepared with this in mind?
- At the end of verse 5 (in Psalm 23), David writes “...**You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**” In the Bible, oil almost exclusively symbolizes the Holy Spirit. What is the importance of having the anointing of the Holy Spirit over our lives? How does it empower us now and as we move into our future?

Start Praying:

Read Ephesians 2:10, 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 & Philippians 1:6. Pray for your group members boldly. Ask for the Holy Spirit's anointing over every group member. Also, pray that there would be peace and confidence for everyone's future in this season of life.

Start Doing:

- Attend church online this coming weekend - <https://church-redeemer.churchoonline.org>. If possible host a watch party over Facebook and be part of service with your group.