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Some thoughts to take with you . . . . . *The Privilege of Optimism*

No one can sum up all God is able to accomplish through one solitary life, wholly yielded, adjusted, and obedient to Him.

D.L. Moody

Day by day, dear Lord, of Thee three things I pray: To see Thee more clearly, To love Thee more dearly, To follow Thee more nearly.

Richard of Chichester

I also know that there is only one place where that angry, reactive, overwhelmed self can be transformed – the same place that Mary chose – the feet of Jesus...When I get into His presence, the whole world looks different. When I draw close to His heart, I find mercy when I know I deserve judgment; I find forgiveness for all my petty, selfish ways; I find grace for all my inadequacies; I find peace for my troubled heart; I find perspective for my distorted views. In Him, I find an eye in the midst of the storm. Oh the storm around me may not immediately subside; but the storm *within* me is made calm.

Nancy Leigh DeMoss

In Christ we have a love that can never be fathomed; a life that can never die; a righteousness that can never be tarnished; a peace that can never be understood; a rest that can never be disturbed; a joy that can never be diminished; a hope that can never be disappointed; a glory that can never be clouded; a light that can never be darkened; a happiness that can never be interrupted; a strength that can never be enfeebled; a purity that can never be defiled; a beauty that can never be marred; a wisdom that can never be baffled; and resources that can never be exhausted.

Author Unknown

Do not tell me that there is no rest for us till we get to heaven. We who have believed in Jesus enter into rest even now. Why should we not do so? Our salvation is complete. The robe of righteousness in which we are clad is finished. The atonement for our sins is fully made. We are reconciled to God, beloved of the Father, preserved by His grace, and supplied by His providence with all that we need. We carry all our burdens to Him and leave them at His feet. We spend our lives in His service, and we find His ways to be ways of pleasantness, and His paths to be paths of peace. Oh, yes, we have found rest unto our souls.

C.H. Spurgeon

I have a great need for Christ; I have a great Christ for my need.

C.H. Spurgeon

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**The Privilege of Optimism**

Psalm 23

**Introduction:** In this well-known and beloved Psalm, David proclaims an extraordinary optimism in the last verse. Set against the backdrop of his day – and ours! – such an optimistic view of life seems rather strange! How can he possibly think that goodness will follow him all his days when he is under the very shadow of death, and surrounded by his enemies? It is clear that his optimistic pronouncement rises out of the providing and protecting presence of His Shepherd. And, the good news, is that His Shepherd is our Shepherd too!

**The Psalm**

Structure

Substance

**The Psalmist**

I need a shepherd

I need the right shepherd

I have found the right shepherd to be the Lord

The Lord my Shepherd has been faithful without fail

Following my Shepherd brings the privilege of optimism

**The Path of Optimism**

A radical sense of personal weakness

A wise choice in selecting a hero

A readiness to recognize and prize His provision

A commitment to follow Him all the days of your life

**A Final Word ...**

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# Kids Notes

## The Privilege of Optimism

### The Questions

Answer the following questions. The answers are on the back.

1. *Psalm 23 reminds us that:*

- A. even the great king David needed a shepherd.
- B. following the Lord is always the best option.
- C. the Lord is faithful all the time.
- D. all of the above.

2. *We can face the future with joy because:*

- A. we have God's Son as our shepherd.
- B. we have God's Word to grow and guide us.
- C. we are surrounded by the Family of God.
- D. all of the above.

3. *Those who love and follow Christ know that:*

- A. goodness and lovingkindness will follow us.
- B. we will live forever with God.
- C. we can rest in the love of God.
- D. all of the above

For Family Discussion: *Why did David use the picture of a shepherd to describe the Lord? What do you know about shepherds? How is Jesus the "good Shepherd?"*

Space to Doodle

## Did You Hear It?

Mark the times you hear these key words:

SHEPHERD _____	TOTAL: _____
OPTIMISM _____	_____
DAVID _____	_____
FOLLOW _____	_____
WEAKNESS _____	_____
HONOR _____	_____

## Word Search

Find the following words in the scramble below. Letters are sometimes used twice, and words may go around corners.

SHEPHERD OPTIMISM DAVID FOLLOW WEAKNESS HONOR SHEEP  
WANT LORD JESUS GREEN PASTURES WATERS SOUL RESTORES  
PATHS RIGHTEOUSNESS GUIDES ROD STAFF COMFORT VALLEY  
DEATH SHADOW ENEMIES TABLE CUP HEAD OIL

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L Q D Q B A C L L D R D G S V R S
S H A D O W O Z N R R G C H V G E
D E A T H R M K F C Q E T T W D D
M R S N D C F F L K G S H A M E I
S S E N S U O E T H G I R P N Y U
I R Y S S J R W E R Y O L E E I G
M R P H T H T A D X A S M L T H H
I D E P F O P N O L S I L Z Z A S
T E A F I N R T R E E A L U O S W
P A A V U O Q E N S V N J O I L L
O T B D I R W K S P G B E B G W H
S P I L A D A S U M S U S E J S Z
W B J H E E Q C E P A S T U R E S
A M T Y W K H I N W O L L O F G X
D P F K B V W T I H C H B I N S F

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