

*Women & More*  
*A 'call' and 'walk' Experience*

***All We Like Sheep***

Worksheet 20: **March 26, 2015**—*grace*

Scripture describes the people of God—Israel and Christians—as being like sheep so many times: He has two flocks that He will join together! And He invites us to His fold through grace-given faith in His Son. Then will follow a life of ‘grazing’ grace—growing in grace every day. We must graze on the good stuff, and know that God is at work to develop our graces.

“This is how you foil the works of evil,  
growing in grace through the very adversity that was meant to harm you...

I [God] can bring good out of every situation you will ever encounter.

Remember Joseph said, ‘You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good.’”

Sarah Young

“Depend upon it, God often sends us trials that our graces may be discovered,  
and that we may be certified of their existence.”

Charles Spurgeon

**Prepare by Soaking in Scripture:**

♥**Psalm 14:2** “*The LORD looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.*”

**Psalm 77:20**

**Psalm 78:52**

**Psalm 119:176**

**Ecclesiastes 7:20** (from the wisest man who ever lived)

**Matthew 10:16**

**Scripture to Memorize:**

**Isaiah 53:6** “*We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*”

**NOTES on Speaking Session:**

**Questions for Mentor-group Discussion:**

1. How much do we know about the quadrupedal, ruminant mammal a.k.a. sheep? Draw a line from the question to its answer on the right.

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| a. What is the common sound made by sheep? | ewes               |
| b. What is their only personal defense?    | stray away         |
| c. What is their worst habit?              | rolled on its back |
| d. What is their best protection?          | bleat              |
| e. What has happened to a 'cast' sheep?    | flock together     |
| f. What are female sheep called?           | retreat            |

2. In a discussion with Peter in **John 21:15-17** Jesus gave him 3 commands. Write them below.

v 15c “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

v 16c “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

v 17d “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

3. In addition to 'saving' grace, the Lord wants to develop His many graces in us. If we mention 'forgiving' grace as another, what are two others that come to mind?

- \_\_\_\_\_ and • \_\_\_\_\_

“Real growth in grace is the result of sanctified trials.”

Charles Spurgeon

**Recommended Reading:**

*A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23*, W. Philip Keller

*Safe in the Shepherd's Arms*, Max Lucado

## *No 'One' Is Good; Not Even One*

In order to measure good—to discover who is good—we have to have something GOOD to measure against, otherwise ‘good’ would be relative—as it relates to another human being’s assessment. The Bible says that “God is good (Luke 18:19) and that every good and perfect gift comes from Him” (James 1:17). So every created thing must be measured against their Creator—their goodness against His. What does God say about man’s goodness—ability to do right?

Psalm 14:2-3—“*The LORD looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.*

*<sup>3</sup>All have **turned aside**, they have **together** become **corrupt**; there is **no one** who **does good, not even one.**”*

What if someone does not believe there is a God, and therefore His assessment doesn’t mean anything to them? From Day 1—in the beginning—the question has been whether we will believe God or not! He wants us to believe that He exists (Hebrews 11:6) and to place our faith in His Son, Jesus Christ, for salvation, but our unbelief will not change the fact of His existence, His preeminence or His every Word. Scripture gives God’s view of one who does not believe, and then restates His assessment of us all:

Psalm 53:1-3—“*The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’*

*They are **corrupt**, and their ways are **vile**; there is **no one** who **does good**. <sup>2</sup>God looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.*

*<sup>3</sup>Everyone has **turned away**, they have **together** become **corrupt**, there is **no one** who **does good, not even one.**”*

Psalm 143:2 (David says to God) “*Do not bring your servant into judgment, for*

***no one living is righteous before you.**”*

Ecclesiastes 7:20 (comes from Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived) “*There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins.*”

Romans 3:10-12 says, “*As it is written: ‘There is*

***no one righteous, not even one**, <sup>11</sup>there is **no one** who **understands**, **no one** who **seeks God**.*

*<sup>12</sup>All have **turned away**, they have **together** become **worthless**; there is **no one** who **does good, not even one.**”*

What is the ‘turning away’ referred to in these verses? The prophet Isaiah in 53:6 explained: “We

*all, like sheep, have gone astray,*

*each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD (Covenant Father) has laid on him (Jesus) the iniquity of us all.”* God calls our turning away iniquity! And the verse just before speaks about Jesus suffering death for sinners, for those who have turned away (for the iniquities of us all): “But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.”

We can become **righteous**, good, only through faith in Christ: Romans 3:21-24 “*But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22this righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. 23For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. 25aGod presented him (Jesus) as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood.*”

Salvation is a free gift to all who will believe and receive—it is from the hand of our Good God—His *cosmic generosity*! But it will not be given except through Jesus Christ (Messiah); we must ask the Savior to forgive us of our sinfulness—no goodness; no rightness—and recognize His payment for our iniquities. Those who do not believe will not receive! Anne Graham Lotz said, “God cannot be less than Himself, and God is good.” Hebrews 3:12 warns believers not to turn away from God into sin and unbelief: “*See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.*” Matthew 16:26a “*What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?*”

Psalm 119:68 “*You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees.*” Psalm 31:19 “**How great is your goodness,** which you have stored up for those who fear you, which you bestow in the sight of men on those who take refuge in you.” Three promises are encased in this short verse:

- 1) God’s goodness is stored up for **those who fear him**;
- 2) God’s goodness is bestowed on **those who take refuge in Him**, and
- 3) God bestows that great goodness **in the sight of men as a witness**.

God is so very ‘good’ that words from our dictionary—words we use every day—will not describe His goodness with any accuracy or justice at all. And all that He is, He is for us! J. I. Packer summed: “**Calvary is the measure of the goodness of God.**” Remember that the prophet Isaiah in 9:6 looked down through time and proclaimed the very GOODNESS of God—*Jesus*—to be *Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace* while He was yet an infant child in a manger! How good is that?

Charles Spurgeon **Morning** and Evening  
20 January

“Abel was a keeper of sheep” (*KJV*).  
“Now Abel kept flocks” (*NIV*).

Genesis 4:2

“As a shepherd Abel *sanctified his work to the glory of God, and offered a sacrifice of blood upon his altar, and the Lord had respect unto Abel and his offering*. This early type of our Lord is exceedingly clear and distinct. Like the first streak of light which tinges the east at sunrise, it does not reveal everything, but it clearly manifests the great fact that the sun is coming.

**“As we see Abel, a shepherd and yet a priest, offering a sacrifice of sweet smell unto God, we discern our Lord, who brings before His Father a sacrifice to which Jehovah ever hath respect.** Abel was hated by his brother—hated without a cause; and even so was the Savior: the natural and carnal man hated the accepted man in whom the Spirit of grace was found, and rested not until his blood had been shed. **Abel fell, and sprinkled his altar and sacrifice with his own blood, and therein sets forth the Lord Jesus slain by the enmity of man while serving as a priest before the Lord.**

“‘The good Shepherd layeth down His life for the sheep.’ Let us weep over Him as we view Him slain by the hatred of mankind, staining the horns of His altar with His own blood. Abel’s blood speaketh. ‘The Lord said unto Cain, The voice of thy brother’s blood crieth unto Me from the ground.’ **The blood of Jesus hath a mighty tongue, and the import of its prevailing cry is not vengeance but mercy.**

“It is precious beyond all preciousness to stand at the altar of our good Shepherd! to see Him bleeding there as the slaughtered priest, and then to hear His blood speaking peace to all His flock, peace in our conscience, peace between Jew and Gentile, peace between man and his offended Maker, peace all down the ages of eternity for blood-washed men.

“Abel is the first shepherd in order of time, **but our hearts shall ever place Jesus first in order of excellence.** Thou great Keeper of the sheep, we the people of Thy pasture bless Thee with our whole hearts when we see Thee slain for us.”