

THE
Good
SHEPHERD

KBC Christmas 2025
Christmas Devotional

You are invited to join KBC in celebrating the birth of our Savior this Christmas!

In this book, you will find dates and descriptions of our upcoming events. Please dive in and read our (weekday) daily devotions throughout the month of December. 'Week 1, Day 1' will begin December 1st and follow a Monday through Friday format.

As you read, consider, and pray, seek the Lord and ask Him to reveal to you when He has been your Good Shepherd.

Save the Dates!

Sunday, December 7

5:30pm -7:30pm KBC Fireside Nights out on the lawn.
Bring finger foods to share! Sit by the fire and
fellowship.

Sunday, December 14

5:30pm -7:30pm KBC Fireside Nights out on the lawn.
Christmas Cookie Night! Bring Christmas cookies to
share and pack for our Homebound members.
Don't forget to bring finger foods to share! Sit by the
fire and fellowship.

Sunday, December 21

5:30pm -7:30pm KBC Fireside Nights out on the lawn.
Bring finger foods to share! Sit by the fire and
fellowship.

Wednesday, December 24

6pm KBC Christmas Even Candlelight Service





The Good Shepherd

INTRODUCTION:

John 10:14 - "I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me"

Shepherds are talked a lot about throughout scripture. They played an important role in ancient times, watching the sheep of the pasture. But more importantly, there were those that watched the sheep that would be raised for sacrifice. The job of a shepherd was not removed from the flock, but he lived among them, to care for them, to protect them, to lead them to green pasture where they could live in safety and receive what they needed.

It was a never ending job. In Luke 2:8-21, the angels that come to proclaim Jesus' birth find the shepherds out in the field keeping watch over their flock by night. The life of a shepherd is devoted to His sheep. How incredible that the first people told about the birth of the true, better, Good Shepherd, were shepherds themselves. This Good Shepherd, born and laid in a manger, would not shepherd the same kind of sheep that these men did, but rather would shepherd us. This Good Shepherd would live among His sheep, He would care for, protect, and ultimately give up His very own life for His sheep. There is no shepherd like Him!

Through this Christmas season, we hope that you will read these devotions with your family. We pray that the Word of God will show that it is living and breathing and changing hearts. That is good for "training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17) We pray that these devotions will allow you to pause for a moment and remember what Christmas is about and why we celebrate it.

Christ is the Good Shepherd and He knows His sheep. Take time to look at what scripture says so that we can know Him too.

WEEK ONE:

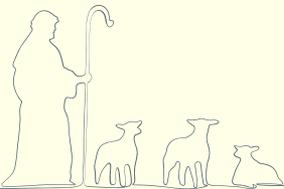
December 1

John 10:11-15

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13 He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep."

There are many differences between the shepherd and a hired hand. A hired hand cares about the income from watching the sheep, the shepherd cares about the sheep. The shepherd loves his sheep and will sacrifice for them. We who are of Jesus' flock have a Shepherd willing to die for us. The birth of Christ points us to His death and resurrection, the Shepherd that would lay down His life for His sheep. As we explore this idea over the next few weeks, pray that we would understand the sacrifice of the Shepherd.

Jesus, thank you for your love and sacrifice on the cross, being willing to take our place. You are truly the Good Shepherd, who died as a sacrificial lamb. Thank you for knowing and loving us and being born that You may die.



WEEK ONE:

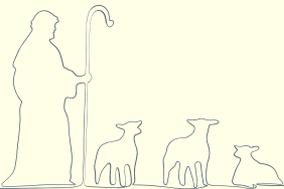
December 2

Isaiah 40:11

"He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young."

Old Testament prophet Isaiah speaks words of comfort from God for His people. He speaks of the sovereignty, power, and everlastingness of God. In this greatness of God, we see His care for His people and the relationship He forms with them. Like a sheep, He holds them close to protect, to guide, and to care for them. God's people are known by God, not left to dangers around them, and looked after. There is an intimacy to this, and there is a presence in this. The Shepherd watches His flock, not from afar, but in their midst. Do you feel the Lord's nearness to you in this season, or do you feel like He is far away? What about the Christmas season makes Him seem closer or further away? He cares deeply for you, and He protects, guides, and cares for you like a good shepherd cares diligently for his flock.

Jesus, thank you for dwelling among your people. Thank you that you are near to your people and never forsake us. Thank you for carrying us close and for tenderly caring for us. Allow us the strength to pursue you continually.



WEEK ONE:

December 3

Psalm 23:1

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."

There is always something comforting about reciting Psalm 23. We often do not recall it until we have spent some time in a tough situation, and when we do recall this psalm, it is out of desperation that we cling to it.

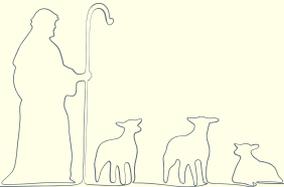
When we have been caught off guard or struggled with uninvited situations. We may have felt that a resolve had to happen quickly. We pray and ask the Lord, "What now?" or "Where do I go from here?", only to be met with silence. The silence may be both confusing and frustrating, but Psalm 23:1 rings true, like a beacon guiding in a dark place,

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."

We can **know** that our Shepherd does not leave His flock.

The Lord, Himself, should be wanted more than anything we could desire. If we have Jesus, we have more than everything we could need. Jesus is the Sufficient Provider, the Good Shepherd, leading His sheep in the way they should go.

Jesus, thank you for being sufficient for us. Allow us to desire you and the things of you more. Thank you for being the Good Shepherd!



WEEK ONE:

December 4

Psalm 23:2

"He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters."

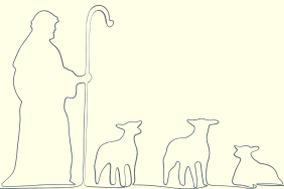
Living in a world filled with chaotic people or circumstances may shake and unsettle us. Our foundation isn't found on what we can do on our own or in our own power. We don't have the strong foundation that can withstand the threat of the world. Our strong foundation is found in the One who provides us wide spaces and calm places of rest.

The Shepherd knows where the green pastures are. He knows we, like sheep, need to be led to the places that nourish and strengthen us.

Sheep won't drink from a place of rushing or splashing water. They need still waters to drink from. The Shepherd knows where these still waters are and He leads His sheep to them so they may drink freely and be refreshed.

Praise God for a Good Shepherd that leads us to places of peace to overcome the chaos of the world.

Jesus, thank you for the rest you provide. You know where we need to be taken, allow us to faithfully follow you as you faithfully lead us well.



WEEK ONE:

December 5

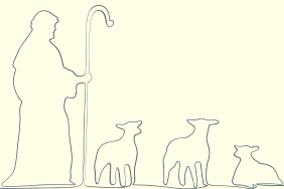
Psalm 23:3

"He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake."

There is none other than the Good Shepherd who can truly bring restoration to our souls. This restoration is more than peace in our hearts, it is peace with God. His power to restore us never runs dry. We can count on the Good Shepherd to restore us as we seek Him and call to Him. He does not restore us only for our benefit but for His Glory. He cares about us and proves it by how He cares for us.

Because the Good Shepherd cares for us, we can trust Him to guide us in the right ways that please God. His Name is known and glorified by how He provides for and leads His people. His work in and through us is evidence of His true power. Praise God for the Good Shepherd who restores, leads, and cares for you!

Jesus, thank you for your restoration power. You are the provider of peace when we walk the path of righteousness. Though we will endure hardship, we follow your lead.



WEEK TWO:

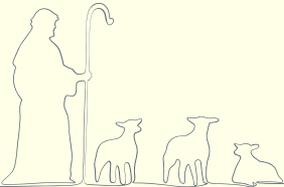
December 8

Psalm 100:1-3

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! 2 Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! 3 Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture."

This Psalm of Thanksgiving leads us to worship and serve our Good Shepherd. He cares for His sheep and puts them where they need to be. The word know means to know by experience and therefore to be well planted and grounded in the truth. We are called to experience God and what we have experienced is that we belong to Him and are with Him. This belonging provides protection and sustenance in His pasture. The Shepherd cares for His sheep and owns, controls, and sustains everything. Better is it to be with Him than anywhere else! Praise the Lord! How have you experienced the Lord as your Shepherd this Christmas season? How does this lead you to rejoice in thanksgiving knowing He is God?

Jesus, thank you for being the Good Shepherd and sustainer of your flock. Thank you for allowing us to know you and I pray we remember how good it is to be known and loved by you. Lead us to worship you in thanksgiving!



WEEK TWO:

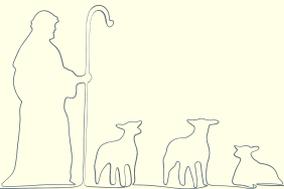
December 9

Hebrew 13:20-21

“Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, 21 equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”

Prior to this passage, the author of Hebrews encourages the readers to pray for he and his companions to return to be with them, which then leads the author to write a blessing over these brothers and sisters in Christ. He prays that they would be equipped with what they need in order to do God's will. He points out that everything comes from Jesus, the Great Shepherd. God works through us, but it is His power, to bring glory to His name, for His purposes! Pray that the Lord would open your eyes to where He has prepared you to do His good will this Christmas season.

Jesus, thank you for equipping us to do your work. We know that all we do should be to bring honor and glory to your name and we thank you that we can do that through your power and your power alone.



WEEK TWO:

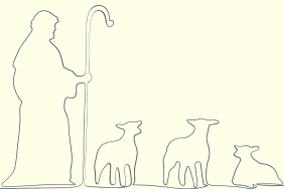
December 10

Matthew 7:15-16

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 You will recognize them by their fruits."

As the Shepherd knows His flock, we the sheep should recognize those in the flock as well. Wolves will come disguised as sheep to distract and try to lure us away from the true Shepherd. We must cling to the Shepherd. We have been called in 1 Peter to look like our God, to "be holy, as He is holy" (1 Peter 1:15). Our fruit should look like His fruit, and the fruit that our life produces should look like Him. So we are to be aware of those that seek to devour and are not pointing us to our Good Shepherd. In this season, we seek to produce fruit that represents Christ and proclaims who He is.

Jesus, thank you for your perfect holiness. Allow our fruit to look like you and forgive us when we fail. Let us always point others to you and your Truth.



WEEK TWO:

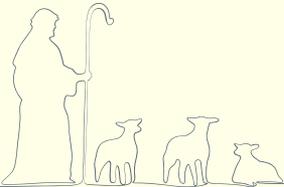
December 11

1 Peter 2:24-25

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. 25 For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”

The beauty of our Good Shepherd is that this Shepherd doesn't just protect us from the wolves, He willingly died for us. Because of His sacrifice, we have salvation in Him. We die to our flesh, to our desires, to our sin, and we live to Christ. We surrender to Him and He watches us and holds us. We find our rest in Him, our souls are refreshed by Him. This Christmas season, we pray that you have seen the glory of our Shepherd, who calls us to Himself. Who loved us so much He would die for us, but showed His power over death by raising from the dead. He is coming back for His sheep!

Jesus, thank you for your sacrifice that gives salvation to those who surrender to you. Thank you for calling the wandering sheep to you. Bring me close as I am prone to wander and forget your sacrifice for me.



WEEK TWO:

December 12

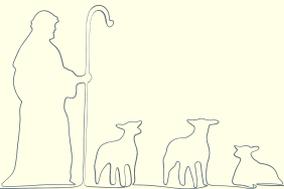
John 10:27

"I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, 26 but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. 27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."

Those who have been called by Christ and have surrendered to Him recognize His voice. They belong to Him and because they believe in Him and belong to Him, they follow His voice. They obey out of love for the Shepherd, not to become a sheep but, because they are his sheep. How good is it that we are known by the Shepherd we follow, our Lord? It is a personal relationship with Him.

He knows us and loves us because we are His. Do you hear and recognize His voice among the busyness of this holiday season?

Jesus, thank you for calling us to be your sheep. Thank you that we are your sheep, not through our actions, but because of yours. Glory to you forever!



WEEK THREE:

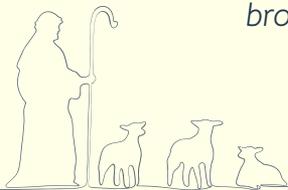
December 15

Luke 15:4-7

“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ 7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”

The incredible thing about our relationship with Christ is that it is Him who pursues us! When we were the lost sheep, He came to find us, it is not our actions, but His love. Then when He found us, He carried us, He rejoiced, He brought others to rejoice that the one who had been lost, is now found. Our Shepherd loves us sacrificially. Our Shepherd doesn't wait for us to seek Him, for He knows we are lost. He pursues those that He has called His and to His purposes. Rejoice with Him when He calls and rescues another because we too were lost, but now we have been found. Rejoice oh heavens when a sinner comes to repentance!

Jesus, thank you for rejoicing over the lost who are saved. May we join you in your desire to see the lost saved and rejoice when a brother or sister surrenders to you and is brought into the flock.



WEEK THREE:

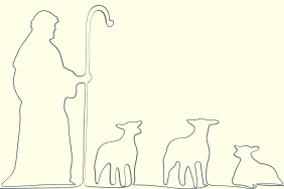
December 16

1 Peter 5:2-4

"Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory."

Peter is talking to fellow elders of the church when he encourages them to shepherd well. Even though not all are called to be shepherds in the sense of being an elder, we are all called to be on mission. We have our own flock, our family, friends, or community like work and other community involvement, who we can shepherd well. Will we let our families get caught up in the chaos of the Christmas season, or will we help keep the focus on the Good Shepherd? Use the opportunity of the Christmas season to be the examples to your flock that Peter calls us to be in this passage. Are we the example of busily filling every nook and cranny of the month with festivities, or keeping our eyes focused on Christ?

Jesus, thank you for being the Good Shepherd and thank you for the shepherds you have put in our lives. Allow us to be a Godly example to those in our sphere of influence to keep their focus on you.



WEEK THREE:

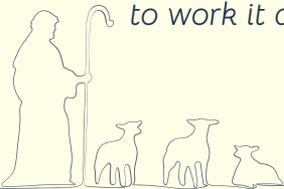
December 17

Matthew 9:36-38

"When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Jesus loves His people and takes compassion on us when we are lost and wandering. He saw the need throughout the cities He traveled and called His disciples to be ready for the harvest. There are many that need to hear the gospel and the Good Shepherd has sent out workers into the field to help take care of His sheep. He calls us to pray for the harvest and that others would join the work of preaching the Gospel. This call is not just for pastors. Each of us are called to proclaim the Gospel where we are. Each of us are uniquely positioned to share the love of Christ with someone. This Christmas season is the perfect time to share the joy and hope that we have in Christ with those who desperately need it. Pray that you would see the opportunities around you to point lost sheep to the Shepherd who loves them and is seeking them.

Jesus, thank you for your compassion on your people and the call to work the harvest. Allow us to have a heart for our community, to see the harvest around us, and to desire to work it and raise up other workers.



WEEK THREE:

December 18

Jeremiah 50:4-6

“In those days and in that time, declares the Lord, the people of Israel and the people of Judah shall come together, weeping as they come, and they shall seek the Lord their God. 5 They shall ask the way to Zion, with faces turned toward it, saying, ‘Come, let us join ourselves to the Lord in an everlasting covenant that will never be forgotten.’ 6 “My people have been lost sheep. Their shepherds have led them astray, turning them away on the mountains. From mountain to hill they have gone. They have forgotten their fold.”

God called Jeremiah to prophesy judgement and hope on Israel. In doing this, he also prophesied judgement on Babylon, the vessel God used to execute justice on Israel. But even in this use, God doesn't endorse their violence and idolatry. It is shown that when God's sheep return to Him, there is reconciliation. The shepherds that have been guiding them, the priests, have done poorly but the Great Shepherd never fails. He is the true and better Shepherd who will not lead the sheep astray. These verses echo the prophecy in Jeremiah 23, which points us to the Great Shepherd who will be called “The Lord is our righteousness” (Jer. 23:6). In Jeremiah 52, we see the remnant of hope for God's people. King Jehoiachin, a descendant of David, is freed from prison and shown favor over the other kings in exile. Though the covenant God made with David seemed at risk, God was in full control and sovereign to be faithful in fulfilling this covenant through Jesus. This Christmas, as we celebrate Jesus' birth, we remember why He came, to be our Shepherd, to lead us to Him, to die in our place, and to rise again to show His sovereignty and power over all things, even over death. The baby born and laid in a manger, was born for a glorious purpose, foretold long ago.

Jesus, thank you for being in control, when it feels like everything around us is in chaos. May we look to you and be steadfast in our love and faith. Allow us to draw encouragement and wonder from your work.



WEEK THREE:

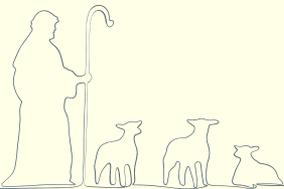
December 19

1 Samuel 17:34-35

"But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, 35 I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him."

When Mary was told that she was to give birth to Jesus, she was promised that her child would have David's throne forevermore (Luke 1:32-33). Christ would be the fulfillment of God's promise to David that his offspring would reign on his throne forever. Christ is the true and better David. Where David was a good shepherd to his sheep and protected them from beasts, Jesus is the Great Shepherd and protects His sheep forever. He is not at risk from the beasts like David was. He will reign our Shepherd and King forever!

Jesus, thank you for being the better Shepherd. Your reign will never end, we will evermore praise the Great Shepherd on the throne of David who will not fail.



WEEK FOUR:

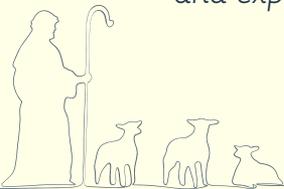
December 22

Micah 2:12-13

"I will surely assemble all of you, O Jacob; I will gather the remnant of Israel; I will set them together like sheep in a fold, like a flock in its pasture, a noisy multitude of men. 13 He who opens the breach goes up before them; they break through and pass the gate, going out by it. Their king passes on before them, the Lord at their head."

This is an Old Testament prophecy about how a remnant of Israel was left after exile and will be led by the Lord Himself. Though the enemy and oppressors are loud outside the gate, we see the Shepherd King go to the front. He breaks through the blockade in His mighty power. In doing this, He takes His rightful place as the head of the remnant. This heavenly Shepherd King will not fail like the earthly kings. He will not let His flock be oppressed or overrun any longer. Micah points to the need for a greater king and gives hope that He will come one day. During this Christmas season, we can rest knowing that Christ has come already to defeat sin and will come again to bring his sheep to be with Him for eternity. This prophecy will continue in Micah 5 when we see Micah speak about our blessed Shepherd King, born in Bethlehem and will be fulfilled when Christ is born in Luke 2! Glory to God for His faithfulness!

Jesus, thank you for your mighty power, that you use to take your right place at the lead. We follow you, the Shepherd King who will not fail. Allow us to wait longingly and expectantly for your return.



WEEK FOUR:

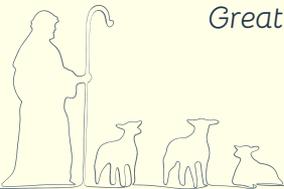
December 23

Micah 5:2 -4

"2 But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. 3 Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. 4 And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

Micah prophesied that out of obscurity and insignificance, the Messiah would be born. From the city of David-Bethlehem- would come the fulfillment of God's promise to David. The kings born in prominence, in Jerusalem, all failed. They trusted in their power, in their knowledge, in their military might to sustain their kingdom. But the King born in Bethlehem will prevail. He will stand in the strength of the Lord our God and reign as a shepherd. He will care for His sheep. His kingdom will be everlasting and eternal, holding the flock secure in the hands of God. This is far surpassing any other king, and fulfilling David's line. How wonderful it is to be able to put our trust in something greater than the powers of this world that fail us and put our hope in the Shepherd King, the King of Kings, that is always faithful and will never fail.

Jesus, thank you for your power and might and that it far surpasses anything we or any king or nation could do. Your Kingdom will never fail, you are the Almighty, You are the Great I AM. Praise the Lord!



WEEK FOUR:

December 24

Isaiah 53:5-6

“But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”

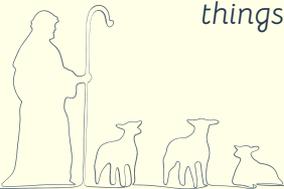
Isaiah is prophesying about the coming work of Jesus. Not only does Isaiah talk about His birth, but He talks about the punishment for our sin that will be laid upon Him. For our sins He will bear this pain, this suffering, this decimation.

The Great Shepherd not only loves His sheep, but He willingly dies for them. His sheep are the ones who have wandered from Him deliberately, ran away from the shepherd to foolishness and sin, but He pursues them and suffers in their place. We have all sinned as we are told in Romans 3, but that doesn't stop God from loving those He has called His own. Praise to the Shepherd who has borne our grief and carried our sorrows, who was crushed for our sin, but did it so that we may have salvation in Him!

As you and your family celebrate Christmas tomorrow, do so remembering that the baby that we celebrate, came with a purpose. God was never surprised by the cross, it was always in His plan and will. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, loves and cares for His flock and He is coming back again.

Merry Christmas from Kathleen Baptist Church.

Jesus, thank you for your sacrifice on the cross. Allow us to remember who you are and why you came. Allow us to have a heart to share your gospel and proclaim your name above all things this Christmas season.



Merry
Christmas



Kathleen
BAPTIST CHURCH

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Lakeland, FL 33810