

**Growth Groups Lesson**  
**April 30-May 1**  
GSCC 45th Anniversary

**Remembering God's Work At GSCC, While Looking Forward to the Future**

God has been so faithful to our church! He has worked in His people to grow and sustain them as the Spirit works through us to build His kingdom. There is no greater honor than getting to serve the Lord faithfully for years and years. Some in your group may be new to Good Shepherd, and some may have been there when it began! We get the joy of being a part of where God will lead Good Shepherd now and into the future.

**Spend some time praising God for how He's led Good Shepherd over your time there.** Review and reflect on the prayer requests given the previous week. Give the Lord praise for the answers to your group's prayers.

Jesus is our Good Shepherd! **Read John 10:1-21**

1. Why is it important that Jesus is the Good Shepherd? How have the shepherds before Jesus done? **Ezek. 34:1-6, 20-24**
2. What character qualities does the Good Shepherd have?
3. What does the Good Shepherd do for His sheep in John 10?
4. Why does the church need this kind of leader?

**Praising the Good Shepherd:**

**Reading the Psalms:**

- The Psalms are words of poetry and praise set to music.
- God has given us the book of Psalms to teach us how to praise His name for who He is and what He has done.
- Praising God is one of the most fundamental, and necessary parts in a life of faith.
- He has redeemed us for the praise of His grace. **Eph. 1:6, 12, 14**

**Read Psalm 146**

**Verses 1 & 2** - We have a command to praise the Lord—to publicly declare His works. So, the writer is determined to praise the Lord as long as he has life.

1. Even though some believers never praise God, public praise should still come naturally and regularly for all. Since we are commanded to praise Him for what He has done at Good Shepherd, share in your group a work God has done at GSCC.

**Verses 3-4** - These verses show that the psalmist delights in praising the Lord. No human leader can save or give help like the Lord.

2. Since our hope and help is found only in Christ, how might we continually remind ourselves of this fact?
3. Share how our Lord has helped you, and given you hope in your difficult situation.

**Verses 5-6** - These two verses emphasize our happiness, because our help and hope are in the Lord our God.

4. Share the happiness you have received by placing your hope in God for His help.
5. Share how God has blessed you in your time at Good Shepherd.

**Verses 7-9** - The Lord, who deserves praise, aids the helpless and weak. The Lord, full of grace and love, is always providing for the needs of His people.

6. The Lord, in His timing, never fails to meet the needs of His children. Share how He has met your needs at just the right time.

**Verse 10** - The Lord reigns now and will reign forever for the good of His own. Because He always reigns, God commands us (“Hallelujah!”) to praise Him, We are commanded to be boastful about our Lord.

7. We have much to praise God for, from one generation to the next. Share a praise on His work at Good Shepherd. How has this benefited you?

Not only can we look back on God’s past faithfulness, but we can know that He will certainly continue to be faithful in the future. This is the hope that we have in Jesus.

**Read 2 Corinthians 4:13-18, Phil 1:6, Eph. 1:15-23**

**Spend some time praying for the future of Good Shepherd:**

-For God to continually grow and mature the church body so that we would love one another well

-Our love would be seen by the world and they would come to believe in Jesus

-God’s kingdom would be expanded through what He is doing in the lives of His people at Good Shepherd

-For God to give wisdom and humility to our leaders so they may pursue Jesus well and teach others to follow