

GOD LOOKS ON THE HEART

Family Devotion – Lesson 52

MEMORY VERSE – PSALM 23:4

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”

- David, the one who wrote this psalm, had a lot of experience with near-death situations. It was not easy for him to live for God due to his many adversaries. He also went through dark times of depression and heartache. Although he suffered in these valleys, the Lord got him THROUGH!
- David made it through these valleys for many reasons:
 - 1) God continued to lead him through it... “I walk through the valley”
 - 2) God gave him courage over his fear... “I will fear no evil”
 - 3) God was with him... “for thou art with me”
 - 4) God provided protection... “thy rod and staff”
 - 5) God gave comfort... “they comfort me”
- David had a free will to follow the Lord. God did not make him follow. It was David’s HEART for God that allowed him to follow his Shepherd. “I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, which shall fulfill all my will” (Acts 13:22).
- No matter how dark the valley or how hard a time you experience, if you have the Lord in your heart, He will get you through. “Our Lord knows the way through the wilderness, all I have to do is follow.”

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- Did God ever promise to keep us from problems, or to get us through problems? Why is this important to know?
- How does God help us to overcome fear?
- When was the last time you experienced a valley or hard time? Did you allow the Lord to help you, and if so how?
- How can a valley help you grow spiritually?

PRAYER TIME

- Pray for someone who is going through a hard time.
- Ask God to help you grow closer to Him the next time you go through a hard time.

CHALLENGE

- Draw a picture that reflects Psalm 23:4.