**April 28 Psalm 23:1 “The Lord is my shepherd. I lack nothing.”**

 ***Jehovah Rovi = The Lord is my shepherd***

**Getting to Know You:**

When you hear the word “SHEEP”, what first pops into your head:

 “Baa, Baa Black Sheep have you any wool…”, “Mary had a Little Lamb”,

Shaun the Sheep, counting sheep to fall asleep, the Sheep Barn at the Clay County Fair, or something else…

**Watch:  The Good Shepherd and His Sheep by lbotnx2**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Coq_grSFlNs>

1. What draws the sheep to the shepherd?
2. How do you think the shepherd feel about the sheep?
3. What does the shepherd feel about the sheep?

**Read:  Psalm 23:1-6** *(NIV)*

*1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.*

*2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,*

*3 he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake.*

*4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*

*5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*

*6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

**Read John 10:1-4, 14-15** *(NIV)*

*The Good Shepherd and His Sheep*

*10 “Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. 2The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.3The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice…*

***14****“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—****15****just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.”*

1.  Jesus calls Himself the Good Shepherd.  What job description or mission statement did He write for Himself?

2.  John uses the words “know” and “listen” a lot.  What role does listening play in the relationship between shepherd and sheep?

3. In this passage, the Lord is the shepherd. We are the sheep. What does the comparison to the sheep say about us?

4.  In Psalm 23, verse 1 says, “The Lord is my shepherd…”

Webster’s dictionary defines a lord as “one having power and authority over…. an owner… a master… another name for God.”

How does the idea that Jesus is a shepherd fit with the idea that Jesus is Lord?

5.  Looking at John 10:15, what does the image of a shepherd say about Jesus?

6.  David in Psalm 23:1 said, “...I lack nothing.”  That did not mean that David owned every possession that it was possible to own.  What did he mean by that? Compare David’s thoughts to Heidelberg Catechism Question 27 which says, “*What do you understand by the providence of God?*

1. *Providence is the almighty and ever present power of God by which He upholds, as with His hand, heaven and earth and all creatures, and so rules them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and lean years, food and drink, health and sickness, prosperity and poverty -- all things, in fact, come to us not by chance but from His Fatherly hand.”*

Heidelberg Catechism Question 28 says, “*How does the knowledge of God’s creation and providence help us?*

1. *We can be patient when things go against us, thankful when things go well, and for the future we can have good confidence in our faithful God and Father that nothing will separate us from His love.  All creatures are so completely in His hand that without His will they can neither mover nor be moved.”*

How is it possible to lack nothing?

7.  The idea of contentment seems almost foreign in our times.  When David says “... I lack nothing.” What is he saying about God?  What is he saying about us?

8. What needs to happen to say that Jesus is **MY** shepherd?

**Application:**This week, if possible, try to do one of the following --

 Focus on the Lordship of Christ.  Remember 1 Corinthians 6:19b-20a “...you are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God…”

Read some other passages about Jesus being described as a shepherd.  Look at Isaiah 40, Isaiah 53, Jeremiah 17, Ezekiel 34, Micah 5, Matthew 9, or Revelation 7.

When tempted to complain about something you lack, write down a list of the blessings God has given you this week.

Find a way to bring encouragement for a friend who is discouraged -- write a note, send a text, go for a walk, …