

30 Days Together
“Immanuel - God With Us”
#30daystogether

Day #15 – Dec. 10th

Text: Ezekiel 34:11-12

“For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness.

Devotion: Bria Clark

When I think about a shepherding, it brings me back to my memories of kindergarten Christmas programs. Rehearsals were the definition of CHAOS. It didn't matter how many times you had practiced where to go or whether or not the kids had the movements and lyrics memorized- rehearsals were always, utter CHAOS. However, as odd as it sounds, chaotic rehearsals were always key to a “chaos-free” performance.

God places us where we need to be whether that's as parents in a pandemic, teachers, medical professionals, business men and women or shepherds. He puts us in situations where He asks us to “look after His sheep.” Meanwhile, God, our shepherd, is also watching over us. It may appear in the form of a person paying for your coffee in the drive-thru. It may present itself in a joyful walk with a friend. It may present itself in a Christmas bedtime story or even just a glimpse of “normalcy”. God shows us that our shepherd is looking after us.

Advent reminds us that God rescued us from eternal days of clouds and darkness through the birth of hope (our savior as a babe in a manger). Though we live in chaos that feels scattered and “too much,” God shows us “where to go”. God helps us “memorize” all of the movements and lyrics. God teaches us what many musicians like to call “perfect practice”.

Practice that feels like too much, is repetitive and at times impossible to get it right the “first time”, but in the end it's extraordinary. Extraordinary because God prepared us in the midst of the chaos and showed us the “perfect way.” Through the guidance of our Savior and shepherd, our shepherding performance will measure up to be “sheer perfection”.

Closing Prayer: Dear Jesus, Thank you for being our shepherd. Thank you for Your Son and that just like life and Kindergarten Christmas programs- out of chaos can come a beautiful performance. We thank you for the tremendous part you play in our every day performances and we thank you for the ways that you equip us as

shepherds. Help us to be shepherds of your hope, faith, joy, and peace this advent season. We love You and we Praise You. Amen.