



Day 5

Peace

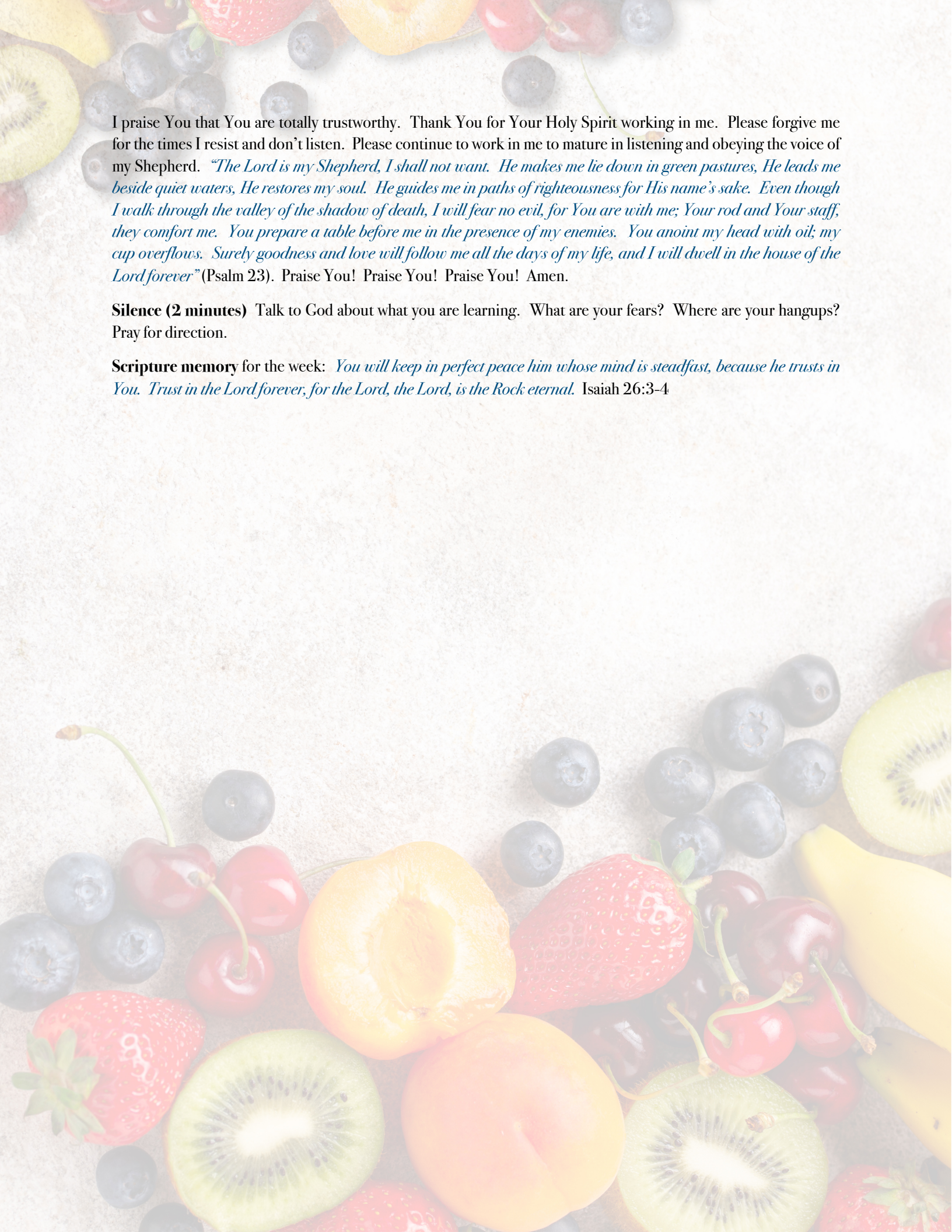
Silence (2 minutes) Take some time to be quiet, to calm down, and to listen. What has God been teaching you? What are the next steps He wants you to take? How is your spirit doing?

Scripture *In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: We have a strong city; God makes salvation its walls and ramparts. Open the gates that the righteous nation may enter, the nation that keeps faith. You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in You. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord, is the Rock eternal.* Isaiah 26:1-4

Discussion Isaiah states that it is salvation in the Lord which protects a nation. It is the nation that keeps faith in God that is righteous and protected. We do not generate our peace, but it is God who keeps us in peace, even a perfect peace. Who does God keep in perfect peace? The person who trusts in God has a steadfast mind and that is who God keeps in perfect peace. When we are born again we put our trust in God. We believe in Jesus' coming, His death for our sins, His resurrection, His appearances to His disciples, and His ascension. We commit to turn away from sin and to follow Jesus. We are given the Holy Spirit to live in us and guide us. That is the birth of our trust in God, but we are infants. God wants *"...to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the Body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming...we will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is, Christ"* (Eph. 4:12-15). *"...you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything"* (James 1:3-4). Beginning in our spiritual infancy we have the opportunity to bring every experience, concern, joy, decision, and question to our Father in prayer. We have the opportunity to walk through our life with Him, getting to know Him, learning His ways and values, and learning how He responds to us. Our prayers to Him go hand in hand with reading the Bible to learn who He is and what He has done. And when we have life-defining crises, we can choose to turn to Him in desperation, pouring our heart out to Him, and walking through that experience with Him. This is how we grow in trusting Him. Getting to know God, growing in trusting Him, is like exercise, completing education, marriage, or parenting. It is the consistent work, day after day, that gives good results. Actually, it's more complex than this, because regardless of whether we choose to grow in our trust of God, He is working in us so that we do grow. The Holy Spirit inside us is whispering to us, reminding us of Jesus' words, convicting us of what we need to do and to avoid, confirming to us over and over that we belong to Him. *"I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you. Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you"* (Ps. 32:8-9). We can choose to cooperate with the Holy Spirit and to grow in trusting God. Then we will have a steadfast mind and God will keep us in perfect peace.

Application God's peace is something we can always have assurance of because it is always available! The peace we can find for ourselves in this life just doesn't compare, but often times it is easier to rely on ourselves than ask God for the peace only He can offer. Consider where you've experienced God's peace before, in the midst of what circumstance or trial you felt God offering His peace most clearly to you. Ask God for that same peace today!

Prayer Father, I praise You for Your wisdom in how You designed me; how You designed life. You created me to need You. Thank You for the opportunity to bring every experience to You, to grow in knowing and trusting You.



I praise You that You are totally trustworthy. Thank You for Your Holy Spirit working in me. Please forgive me for the times I resist and don't listen. Please continue to work in me to mature in listening and obeying the voice of my Shepherd. *"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever"* (Psalm 23). Praise You! Praise You! Praise You! Amen.

Silence (2 minutes) Talk to God about what you are learning. What are your fears? Where are your hangups? Pray for direction.

Scripture memory for the week: *You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in You. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord, is the Rock eternal.* Isaiah 26:3-4