

## Growth Assignment

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

Is God Good? Anointed

*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

<sup>2</sup> *He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.*

<sup>3</sup> *He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.*

<sup>4</sup> *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.*

<sup>5</sup> *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. **You anoint my head with oil...*** **Psalm 23: 1 – 5 (ESV)**

Ephesians 2:10 describes how God created each of us for a purpose by explaining that God “*created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.*” But we need God’s power to carry out his purposes in our lives, and that power is called God’s anointing. The term “anointing” is used frequently in Bible stories as a symbol of Godly benefits such as joy, comfort, salvation, healing, and success. Anointing by God happens today when the Holy Spirit gives us powers that we normally don’t have so we can carry out the work God has planned for each of us. Here we’ll look at facts about God’s anointing and reflect on how it makes it possible for us to carry out his purposes.

### 1 Thessalonians 5: 24 (ESV)

*He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.*

1. To be anointed by God is to have the Holy Spirit give you insights, abilities, and stamina that you would not normally have to do a job that God has called you to do. Have you had an experience of the Holy Spirit anointing you to complete a job God had appointed you to do? What was that like?

### **Ephesians 3: 16 (NLT)**

*I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit.*

2. Can you describe a time when you dealt with a difficult task and felt overwhelmed because of your limited resources and lack of strength, but prayed to God for strength and performed successfully?

### **Philippians 4: 13 (ESV)**

*I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*

3. What obstacles have you had to overcome, and what kinds of abilities has God given you to help overcome them?

### **Acts 10: 38 (ESV)**

*God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.*

4. Can you provide an example of how God has anointed your life with the Holy Spirit to do good and bless others? Or can you provide an example of how someone else has been anointed by the Holy Spirit to bless you?

### **Isaiah 61: 1 (ESV)**

*The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.*

5. This passage was part of Jesus' first public speech in the synagogue of his boyhood home, Nazareth. Can you think of any stories from his ministry that fulfill this passage?