



1. Knock, knock.
2. Who's there?
1. Boo
2. Boo who?
1. You don't have to cry about it.

1. Knock, knock.
2. Who's there?
1. Scold.
2. Scold who?
1. Scold outside. Can I come in?

1. Knock, knock.
2. Who's there.
1. Broken pencil.
2. Broken pencil who?
1. Never mind. It's pointless.

I figured I'd begin with a little fun this month and use the above jokes to work my way into the Pastor's Page. We all know "knock, knock" jokes. We've been telling them since we were children. In fact, they are especially perfect for children because they are simple, to the point and lead to an answer that is obvious and flows from the beginning to the end. This straightforward, simple approach is useful in communication of various types. In fact, some of our favorite Scripture verses are similar in a way. I was reminded of this last Sunday when our Psalm for the day was Psalm 23. I'm sure the 23rd Psalm is one of the most beloved pieces of Scripture in the world. The reason, I think, is because, like "Knock, knock" jokes, the Psalm is straight to the point, and flows in a very understandable way from beginning to end. While most of us don't herd sheep, we can imagine the usefulness of a shepherd to the flock. Over years of interaction with and discussion about this Psalm we've come to understand the important role shepherds play in keeping their flocks safe, fed and in good order. Because of this, the poetic language of the Psalm and its imagery fill us with feelings of comfort, hope, belonging, confidence and peace. To hear that God is like a good shepherd helps us to know God better and to allow ourselves to trust

in the one who cares for us. Simple, straightforward, making sense from the beginning to the end and easy to understand, it's no wonder this Psalm is so special to so many.

I'm sure that you have favorite Bible verses. When you think of your favorites, can you identify why those verses mean so much to you? What feelings do they create in you when you read or recite them? What do those verses reveal to you about God? What deeper meaning do you come to know through the simple, faithful expression of that piece of Scripture? How is your faith strengthened knowing those words? From John 3:16 to the Christmas story from Luke to a parable which touches you to the words of Jesus on the cross to a verse from St. Paul which explains God's love in a way that makes perfect sense to you, certain verses serve as foundational to our individual faith. The fun part is that my favorite verses might not be yours. Another Psalm might touch your heart, or words from one of the prophets or a story from Genesis might be meaningful, while in another's mind a story on healing or a piece from Revelation might top the list. While we may have a list of favorites that doesn't match, my guess is that your favorites follow the "Knock, knock" joke pattern. They are easy for you to follow and understand, they make sense from beginning to end and they reveal an answer that moves us. Whatever your favorite verse or verses may be, know that they are a treasured gift from God and reveal, in an important way, God's love for you.

1. Knock, knock.
2. Who's there?
1. Noah.
2. Noah who?
1. Noah good knock, knock joke?

1. Knock, knock.
2. Who's there?
1. Noah.
2. Noah who?
1. Noah God who loves you? I do.