

## SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY DEVOTIONAL

**-When you think of a pilgrim, what is the first thought that comes to your mind?**  
(Thanksgiving-Mayflower-Pilgrims)

**-What is a pilgrim?** (A person who takes a long journey in search of a great moral significance.)

**-What significant thing were the Mayflower Pilgrims searching for when they came to America?** (A place to worship God freely with their families.)

**-Do you ever feel like a Pilgrim in this life, searching for something significant? If so, please explain. (...)**

**-Can you name some other significant things we may have searched for? (...)**

**-There are significant things we search for that also come from the heart.**

**-Here are some examples: Have you ever searched for a purpose when you felt like you had none? (...)**

**-Have you ever searched for peace when your mind was wrestling with problems that seemed so huge?(...)**

**-Have you searched for joy that just always seemed a little elusive because life dealt you some hard struggles?(...)**

**-Have you searched for some strength you needed to face a difficult situation or the fear of being alone? (...)**

**-Have you ever searched for patience as you waited on the Lord to walk you through some difficult times in your life? (...)**

**-Did you ever search for some forgiveness for things you may have said or done in the past to someone and now they are gone and it's too late?**

**-Or have you searched for the power to offer forgiveness to someone who doesn't deserve it because of what they have done to you or a loved one? (...)**

**-These are all significant things that we as humans search for.**

**-Believe it or not, we are all pilgrims in this life, searching for something significant, not realizing that our hearts are really searching for "Someone" significant to fill those needs.**

**-This "Someone" gives us peace when nothing else can, joy when it seems impossible to have it, strength for a journey that is difficult to handle, patience in times when humanly we cannot offer it and forgiveness when the world says it isn't due. Do you know Who that "Someone" is? (Jesus)**

**-How many know the old hymn "Surely Goodness and Mercy" written by John Peterson and Alfred Smith? (...)**

**-We are going to study this today because it talks about being a pilgrim in this life and offers us some encouragement. Let's read(or sing) together the first stanza of this song on our Verse Sheet, #1: ("A pilgrim was I and a-wand-ring, In the cold night of sin I did roam, When Jesus, the kind Shepherd found me, And now I am on my way home.")**

**-When you think of an unbeliever as a pilgrim wandering in a cold night of sin, what do you think are some things this unbeliever may be “wandering” about?**

(Something with purpose or meaning, peace from personal pain or suffering, hope, joy, the significance for their lives.)

**-According to the end of this stanza, Who FINDS us? (The Shepherd, Jesus)**

**-How does that make you feel knowing Jesus, the KIND Shepherd, your Caretaker, was looking for you WHILE you were lost in sin? (Loved, Thankful, Joyful, a sense of belonging to Someone Who cares to search for me, etc.)**

**-There is a verse that specifically tells us this. It is #2 on our Verse Sheet, let us read it aloud together for confirmation: (Luke 19:10 “For the Son of Man came to SEEK and to SAVE the lost.”)**

**-So according to this verse, what was Jesus’ purpose here on earth? (To seek us out and to save us from our sin, not condemn us.)**

**-How does that make you feel? (...)**

**-Let’s read(or sing) the second stanza of the song together, #3 on our Verse Sheet:**

(He restoreth my soul when I’m weary, He giveth me strength day by day, He leads me beside the still waters, He guards me each step of the way.)

**-How does He restore our soul when we are weary? (Through reading His promises in His Word, He reminds us of His love for us, and how He is helping us through difficult things we face in life. Also, fellowship with Him in conversational prayer restores our soul, letting us know we are never alone because He is always there, ready to listen to us and comfort us. He reminds us that He can carry our burdens!)**

**-This stanza was probably taken from the first 3 verses of Psalm 23 written by King David in a time of trouble. Let’s read these verses together and be encouraged by them, #4 on our Verse Sheet:**

(Psalm 23:1-3 “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He Maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He Leadeth me beside the still waters. He Restoreth my soul; He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.”)

**-What are the 4 things the Lord is doing here for us, it is underlined: (The Lord Makes us lie down, He Leads us by still waters, He Restores our soul, He Leads us into paths of righteousness.)**

**-Does this show us a God Who leaves us all alone to handle our problems by ourselves or One Who cares enough that He helps us in them and guides us through them? (...)**

**-How does that make you feel?**

**-Now let’s read(or sing) the last stanza of this song together, #5 on our Verse Sheet:**

(“When I walk through the dark, lonesome valley, My Savior will walk *with me* there, And safely His great hand will lead me, To the mansions He’s gone to prepare.”)

**-How many of us are walking or have walked through some dark, lonesome valleys? (...)**

**-Did you ever wonder or are you wondering now if you will ever make it through?**

(...)

**-Who is walking with us there?** (Jesus, our Savior!)

**-The key words here in this song are “My Savior will walk WITH ME there”! What does that mean to you?** (I am not alone, He is there! The God of the Universe and Creator of all walks WITH ME!)

**-What do you think of when it says “And safely His great hand will lead me, to the mansions He’s gone to prepare?”** (That there is something more than this world alone. That God is guiding us to His presence to feast at His table in eternity with Him one day.)

**-Revelations 7:17 actually talks about this. Let’s read it together on our Verse Sheet, #6:** (Rev. 7:17 “For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; He will *lead them* to springs of living water; and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”)

**-So, again, Who is leading us?** (Jesus)

**-And when our time is up here on earth, Who will wipe away all our tears?** (God Himself!)

**-Again, how does that make you feel that God Himself is going to wipe away our tears?** (Special, Loved and Hopefully worth living life with Jesus while here on earth.)

**-Let’s read(or sing) the Chorus of the song together, #7 on our Verse Sheet:** (Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me, All the days, all the days of my life. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me, All the days, all the days of my life. And I shall dwell in the House of the Lord forever; And I shall feast at the table spread for me. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me, All the days, all the days of my life.)

**-Let me ask you, Who is perfect in giving Goodness and Mercy?** (Christ)

**-Then what does “Surely Goodness and Mercy shall follow me, all the days of my life” mean?** (That Christ, the perfection of goodness and mercy, will follow us all the days of our lives even into eternity!)

**-This chorus was written from the verse Psalm 23:6. Let’s read it together, #8 on our Verse Sheet:** (Psalm 23:6 “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.”)

**So, as pilgrims who are wandering here on this earth for a short time, we are not alone to handle our problems and struggles by ourselves. We have the One Who is perfect in goodness and mercy helping us in this journey on earth called life. Our Lord and Savior promises us that He will never leave us or abandon us, no matter what we may feel, He is always there! Equipping us with what we need to face this journey of life, so one day we may be with Him forever!**

**Now let’s sing the song together and enjoy His words of comfort! It is on the back of our Verse Sheet.**

## SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY VERSE SHEET

1. "A pilgrim was I and a-wand'ring, In a cold night of sin I did roam, When Jesus the Kind Shepherd found me, And now I am on my way home."
2. Luke 19:10 "For the Son of Man came to **SEEK** and to **SAVE** the lost."
3. "He restoreth my soul when I'm weary, He giveth me strength day by day, He leads me beside the still waters, He guards me each step of the way."
4. Psalm 23:1-3 "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He Makes me to lie down in green pastures; He Leads me beside the still waters. He Restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake."
5. "When I walk through the dark, lonesome valley, My Savior will walk *WITH ME* there, And safely His great hand will lead me, To the mansions He's gone to prepare."
6. Rev. 7:17 "For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; He will *LEAD THEM* to springs of living water; and *God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.*"
7. "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me, All the days, all the days of my life. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me, All the days, all the days of my life. And I shall dwell in the House of the Lord forever; And I shall feast at the table spread for me. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me, All the days, all the days of my life."
8. Psalm 23:6 "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."

# **Surely Goodness And Mercy**

**I.**

**A pilgrim was I and a-wand'ring,  
In the cold night of sin I did roam.  
When Jesus, the kind Shepherd, found me,  
And now I am on my way home.**

**II.**

**He restoreth my soul when I'm weary;  
He giveth me strength day by day.  
He leads me beside the still waters;  
He guards me each step of the way.**

**III.**

**When I walk through the dark, lonesome valley,  
My Savior will walk with me there;  
And safely His great hand will lead me  
To the mansions He's gone to prepare.**

**Chorus:**

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
All the days, all the days of my life.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
All the days, all the days of my life.  
And I shall dwell in the House of the Lord forever;  
And I'll feast at the table spread for me.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
All the days, all the days of my life.  
All the days, all the days of my life.**

**(Lyrics: John W. Peterson and Alfred B. Smith)**