

The Lord is MY shepherd

Key Scriptures

Psalm 23:1-6 The LORD is my shepherd; I lack nothing.

² He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.

³ He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

⁴ Yea, 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.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

Key Point: Though the sheep may feel like they lack something, as long as the shepherd has it, they don't actually lack it.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- When reading Psalm 23, the King James Version from 1611 says "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want." How do you think someone uninformed or a child could interpret this statement? Did you ever misunderstand it? Many modern versions translate it "I lack nothing." How does this differ from "I shall not want?"

Start thinking. Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- While you may not have much experience with sheep, in what ways do you think the Lord is like a shepherd? In what ways are His people like sheep?
- Verse 1-4 are from the perspective of a sheep, as well as the statement "you anoint my head with oil." Why were each of these things important to sheep? How do each of these issues correlate with our needs and God's provision? (what do the pastures, still waters, paths, valley, rod & staff represent in daily life?)
- In John 10:7-30 Jesus taught that He is the good shepherd. Take some time to read this passage and discuss any insights you have of Jesus shepherding His people.
- Why do you think David wrote part of this from a shepherd's perspective, and part from human perspective? Why are the first three verses focused on "He" where vs. 4-5 are "you."

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- One of the main themes in this psalm is that you can trust God completely. Are there any sections of this psalm that highlight areas where you have a difficult time trusting God? What areas have you experienced God coming through for you?

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- What attitudes or actions do you need to establish that are found in this Psalm? How can you practice it this week?

Prayer Requests. Be bold and pray with power.

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