



## Group Guide

# The Lord is My Shepherd

*April 28, 2024*

**Main Passage: Psalm 23:1-6**

## Theological Theme

God knows what we need and, as we trust Him, we reap the benefits of an intimate relationship with the God of the universe.

## Introduction

- ❓ Why do you think this psalm is such a comfort for people facing hardship and loss?
- ❓ How have you faced the valley of shadow of death in your own life?

## 1. The Shepherd (Psalm 23:1-2)

Even after being anointed as the next king of Israel, David's life was anything but easy. He was attacked, chased, threatened, and continually on the run. Once he became king, there were battles, conquests, and plans that come with a growing kingdom. Through the recorded ups and downs of David's life, one phrase is repeated often, "David inquired of the LORD" (1 Samuel 23:4; 2 Samuel 2:1-2). Whether he was shepherding sheep or people, David depended on God and demonstrated what it meant to be a man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14).

- ❓ What does the imagery of sheep and shepherd teach us about God and about ourselves?
- ❓ What does it mean to you that the Lord is "your" shepherd? How have you experienced the reality of His care in this way?
- ❓ Application: Where do you need rest in the Lord today? How will you seek that?

## 2. The Presence (Psalm 23:3-4)

Sheep submit to the leadership of the shepherd and experience the freedom that comes from his guidance. God leads us in the right way. Sheep don't need to know where to rest or eat. They follow the shepherd because he has the answers. This is how we are to live as we follow the Lord and trust in Him. As we follow the Lord is complete trust, He is glorified. The best way to live always gives glory to God. We often believe the lie that satisfaction is found in someone or something else, but we are renewed as we walk the paths that bring Him proper honor and glory.

- ❓ Where do you feel in need of renewal? How is this found in the presence of the Lord, even in hardship and confusion?
- ❓ When have you been grateful for the Lord's presence during a hard time?
- ❓ Application: How do you need to respond to God guiding, directing, or correcting you currently? Why is it important that we not bypass these moments?

### 3. The Blessing (Psalm 23:5-6)

Finally, David shifted to the image of a host preparing a beautiful table for His guest. Being invited to enjoy the provision and goodness of the Lord is like being invited to an exclusive and bountiful banquet. Our God is a personal God who has the resources to prepare exactly what we need as well as the bounty to bless us beyond our imagination.

- ❓ What does it say to you that God isn't deterred by the presence of enemies, and He is preparing a place for you regardless of circumstance? How does this comfort and encourage you?
- ❓ What are some things God has set you apart for to bring Him glory?
- ❓ Application: How have you experienced God's goodness and faithful love pursuing you?

### Conclusion

David walked with the Lord through good times, hard times, devastating times, sinful times, times of restoration, and everything in between. Psalm 23 is full of powerful imagery and theological truths that bring comfort and strength to Christ followers at any stage of life.

- ❓ Which of the images in Psalm 23 impacts you the most? Why?
- ❓ Where do you feel the presence of hardship and threats in your life? How can God's promised presence be a comfort in this?
- ❓ How can you seek to have a gospel conversation with another person by sharing the encouragement of Psalm 23?