

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

PSALM 23

MAIN TAKEAWAY

God is our Shepherd, and we are His sheep. Our Shepherd is our provider, restorer, guide, and protector—He loves us and will get us safely to Heaven.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Why do you think Psalm 23 is one of the most well-known passages in the Bible? Do you have any particular memories of hearing or reading this psalm? How has it been meaningful to you?

Knowing that God is your Shepherd, and you are His sheep, how have you learned more about who God is and who you are?

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ PSALM 23:1-3

Why is it significant that David did not say the Lord is *a* shepherd, but rather, “The Lord is *my* Shepherd”? How does this reveal God’s interest in you as an individual? How have you personally known this truth?

***Our Shepherd is our provider.* Why do sheep need a shepherd, and how does this reveal our dependence upon God? How have you learned to look to the Lord for His provision (Deuteronomy 8:18)?**

Pastor Greg said, “Contentment should be a hallmark of the godly person. Our contentment does not come from *what we have*, but from *who we know*.” How have you learned to find contentment in the Lord (Hebrews 13:5; Philippians 4:11-13)? Why

might you become discontent, and how can this be corrected?

Our Shepherd is our restorer. What is a “cast sheep,” and how does this depict our need for restoration (Psalm 42:5-6)? How do the parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the prodigal son show the ways that God pursues us to restore us (Luke 15)?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ PSALM 23:4-6

Our Shepherd is our guide. Pastor Greg explained, “Spiritual fruit doesn’t grow on mountaintops.” What are some things you can uniquely learn when walking through a valley? What truths should you remember as you journey through all the seasons of life—from green pastures, still waters, valleys, tablelands, to the house of the Lord?

Our Shepherd is our protector. What are the three enemies of the Christian life, and how does God provide protection against each one? How can you ensure that you “don’t give the enemy a seat at your table”?

Our Shepherd loves us. What is the purpose of the Shepherd’s rod and staff, and how do these tools bring comfort to His sheep? How have you experienced God’s love through His discipline and correction (Revelation 3:19; Hebrews 12:8)?

Our Shepherd will get us safely to Heaven. How is Psalm 23 fulfilled in Jesus as the Good Shepherd? How do His sheep have assurance of salvation (John 10:7-11, 27-29)?

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

In reflection on this message, how is your walk with the Lord characterized like that of a sheep with its shepherd? In what areas of your life do you need to be more mindful of the truths of Psalm 23?

Of the main points regarding what our Shepherd does—He provides, restores, guides, and protects—which one is especially encouraging in your life right now? Why?

PRAYER

Give thanks that the Lord is your Shepherd. Pray for renewed trust in His provision, rest in His restoration, reliance upon His guidance, and confidence in His protection. Praise Jesus for His salvation—that the Shepherd became the Lamb (John 1:29).