

Focus passage: Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even 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.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
And I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.”

What stands out to you from this passage?

What are your associations with this psalm? What do you think about when you hear it?

What does it mean for the Lord to be our shepherd? What are the different roles a shepherd must fulfill in watching a flock?

A shepherd must be ready to do many tasks including guide the flock, protect it from dangers, keep the sheep from wandering, attend to the sick, nurse the young, and carry the lame. How does God minister to us in these ways?

Does reading this psalm and knowing this about God make it easier to put our faith in him? To follow as he would lead us? How?

Psalm 23 describes both good times and bad. Do we feel like God shepherds us and is near to us even when we walk through valleys of death?

Read Luke 15:1-7 and John 10:1-18 to see how Jesus is our shepherd. *Is it hard to imagine that Jesus cares for us on such a deep, personal, and intimate level?*

How can you apply this Scripture to your life?

