

*The Shepherd*

Psalm 23

**KEY VERSES**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>3</sup> he restores my soul.<sup>[b]</sup>

He leads me in right paths<sup>[c]</sup>  
for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley,<sup>[d]</sup>  
I fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup> Surely<sup>[e]</sup> goodness and mercy<sup>[f]</sup> shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
my whole life long.<sup>[g]</sup>

Through the next four weeks, we'll focus on Psalm 23, written by David. This first week we focus on two words from the first line: "**my Shepherd.**" This reminds us that how we start communication is important. Of all the terms David could use to describe God, he uses "shepherd." Shepherds value their sheep above all else, and in turn the sheep depend fully upon the shepherd. **What do the words "my Shepherd" mean to you? Can you grasp the miracle that the God of the universe wants to care for us?**

Over the next few weeks we'll explore how to enter into this Psalm, and to hear from our Shepherd. Here are three items of homework that will carry us through this month:

- 1) **Memorize Psalm 23:** internalize it so it becomes your prayer
- 2) **What does this Psalm teach you about the shepherd?** Make notes of the character and nature of how God is portrayed as the Shepherd, and how this is significant for you.
- 3) **What is the good news for the sheep?** No matter what we're going through, even if it's not the darkest valley, there is good news and restoration through this Psalm.