

Lesson 3

Psalm 23

Take some time to slowly read through Psalm 23 this week, asking the Holy Spirit to illumine your thinking and to speak to you through this portion of the Word of God.

*“I am the good shepherd;
the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.”*

John 10:11

1. What concept from last week’s lesson was especially helpful or thought provoking to you?
2. Look for a verse in the lesson this week that is meaningful to you and make it your memory verse. Write it down, carry it with you, put it on your refrigerator or mirror or dashboard and memorize it. Share your memory verse with your small group.
3. As you initially read Psalm 23, what strikes you?
4. Why would David, who wrote this psalm, have known about what it means to be a good shepherd according to I Samuel 16:11,16:19, 17:15, 17:20, II Samuel 7:8, and Psalm 78:70-72?
5. Who are compared to sheep in Isaiah 53:6?
6. Describe the shepherd depicted in Genesis 48:15, Psalm 80:1, Psalm 100 and Jeremiah 31:10-12.

7. In John 10:1-10 Jesus describes a sheep fold. List and discuss the things that He teaches about Himself and His sheep in this passage.
8. Discuss the qualities of Jesus, the Good Shepherd in John 10:11-16. See also Isaiah 40:11, I Peter 5:4 and Revelation 7:17.
9. Whose voice do His sheep recognize and follow according to John 10:4-5, and 10:27? Discuss what this means to you.
10. From Ezekiel 34:11-15 and Luke 15:3-7 how does the shepherd feel about every single lamb?
11. What promises are special to you from John 10:27-28?
12. Tell how David expresses complete trust in his Shepherd's provision for his physical needs in Psalm 23. Have you ever experienced this same kind of trust in the Lord? Share your experiences with your group.
13. "He leads me beside still waters...." How does Jesus describe the water he gives and the result of receiving it in John 4:7-14, 6:35 and 7:37-39? Have you ever received this living water? Discuss.
14. Have you ever come to your Good Shepherd for restoration? Discuss this with Matthew 11:28-30 in mind.

15. As we think about the Lord guiding us in the paths of righteousness, consider Proverbs 3:5-6 and discuss.

16. With the Lord as our Good Shepherd, why do we no longer have to fear death? See Hebrews 13:5 and 13:20-21, Acts 2:23-24, Acts 2:32, Romans 4:23-25 and I Corinthians 15:54-57 and discuss.

17. Read about the staff of Moses in Exodus 14:13-22. What happens in this story? What might the staff represent here? Try to relate this to Psalm 23.

18. How is the Lord pictured as the gracious host in Psalm 23? What does this mean to you?

19. Just as a shepherd anoints the wounds of a sheep, discuss how the Lord ministers to our spiritual and emotional wounds to bring healing.

20. How does David picture our future as believers in Psalm 23? Will this be a temporary situation? Discuss.

In the *New American Standard Ryrie Study Bible*, Psalm 23:6 reads, “Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life...” Other Bible translations may use words such as mercy, love or kindness in this verse. In the original Hebrew translation the word is *hesed*. According to Dr. Ryrie, the word *hesed* is used about 250 times in the Old Testament:

“It means loyal, steadfast, or faithful love and stresses the idea of a belonging together of those involved in the love relationship.” “In the Old Testament, communion, deliverance, enablement, enlightenment, guidance, forgiveness, hope, praise, preservation are all based on God’s *hesed*.”

Lecture Notes: