



## PSALM 23

### **Greet:**

- Spend a minute getting a 30-60 second update from each student on what they are doing with their time, how they are feeling, etc. Within reason, be strict with the 30-60 seconds!

### **Dive-In:**

- Read Psalm 23 together, have one volunteer read it out loud for the group.

*1 The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.*

*2 He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams.*

*3 He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name.*

*4 Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.*

*5 You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings.*

*6 Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.*

### **Discover & Discuss:**

- How would you summarize the big idea of the entire psalm? (Here's a clue! . . . its in verse 1)
- How does the word "**need**" (in verse 1) differ from "*want*" or "*desire*"?
- This Psalm uses sheep and shepherd imagery. If God is the Shepherd, that means we are the sheep. What do you know about sheep? What are they like? Why would David describe us as sheep?



- Let's do a little bit of grammar to help us understand the Bible better! Read through the Psalm again, and circle every [ACTION VERB](#) the Shepherd takes!

\*\* It's interesting that most of the action being done in this Psalm is not by the sheep, but by the Shepherd. **HE** leads, **HE** protects, **HE** is with us in trouble, **HE** provides, **HE** honors, **HE** pursues us with love and goodness.

- When you think of streams of water and green meadows . . . what do you imagine?

\*\* Most people imagine rolling green hills and blue rivers of fresh water. Check [THESE PICTURES OUT](#) to see what "Green Meadows" and "Peaceful Streams" really look like in Israel!

- After seeing those pictures, and how scarce water is and how scarce grass is . . . how does that shape your understanding of verse one "*The Lord is my Shepherd, I have all that I need?*"

### **Apply:**

The idea is, the good shepherd leads us to exactly what we "**need**". . . He leads us to just enough! The shepherd does not lead his sheep to endless supplies of water and grass . . . He does not lead them to plenty and abundance, he leads them just enough. The sheep need to be connected to the Shepherd to get what they need every day!

- Take a moment to consider and write down specific examples of how God has provided you with what you need?
- What are you tempted to call a "**need**" but is really just something you "want" or "desire"?
- Where is the place in your life where God is leading you to "just enough" where you would rather have "plenty and abundance"?
  - Clue! . . . What do you most worry or complain about? Those are likely the places God is leading you to just enough where you would rather have abundance.



- What is one practical way you can stay close to the Shepherd this week?

**Pray:**

Spend some time praying and asking God to help you apply His word. Also pray for things that are on your heart. Here are some examples of things to pray for:

- Spend a moment in prayer, thanking God for specific things he has provided you!
- Pray for eyes that notice more ways God has given you all that you need!
- Pray for protection and safety in these uncertain times as we “*walk through the darkest valleys.*”
- Pray for continued strength and endurance for healthcare workers.
- Pray for . . . ?