

# Yahweh my Shepherd

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## SMALL GROUP NOTES

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### Scripture

Psalm 23: 1-6

### Scripture context

David's own personal experience as a Shepherd shapes his reflections of God in this psalm. The description of the Lord as the Shepherd of his people is found in a number of places in the OT. Psalm 23 paints a beautiful picture of God's relationship and dealings with his people. The Lord is both a Shepherd of his people as a whole but also a Shepherd of his people as individuals.

### Did you know?

- The book of Psalms is the most quoted in the NT and Jesus quoted from the Psalms more than ever other OT book.
- The Lord is first described as Israel's Shepherd in Genesis 49:24 by Jacob.
- A shepherd carried a rod to beat off wild animals / predators and a staff to guide his sheep. Therefore the rod and staff in verse 4 speak of God's protection and guidance.

### Question for study and discussion

1. If the Lord is our Shepherd, then what does Psalm 23 reveal about us? In what way are we like sheep?
2. The Lord is with us even when we walk through the "valley of the shadow of death." How have you experienced God's presence and comfort in dark times / difficulties?
3. Verse 2 says "He makes me lie down in green pastures." This suggests that we are sometimes reluctant to follow His leading. Are there any ways in which God is leading you but you are reluctant to follow? If so, why?
4. The picture shifts from a Shepherd to a Host in verse 5-6. What do the images of 'table', 'oil' and 'cup' mean to you?

### Digging Deeper

Read Ezekiel 34:11-24 and John 10:1-18. What parallels do you find in these passages and what do they reveal to us about God's heart for his people?

### Resources for further study / devotion

*Incomparable; Explorations in the character of God*, by Andrew Wilson.

*My Rock; My Refuge: A Year of Daily Devotions in the Psalms*, Tim Keller

*Reflections on the Psalms*, C.S Lewis