

A vertical photograph of a mountainous landscape. In the foreground, several sheep are grazing on a green hillside. The middle ground shows a valley with more greenery and some trees. In the background, there are large, rugged mountains under a clear sky.

A JOURNEY *through* PSALM 23

AUGUST 31, 2025

READ

Read Psalm 23, focusing specifically on v.1-3, and consider what lessons the Holy Spirit intends us to learn.

EXAMINE

- What does it mean for God to be our shepherd?
- What does it mean for us to be like sheep?
- “I shall not want” can also be translated, “I have all that I need,” or “I lack nothing.” How does this statement relate to God being our shepherd?
- What is the purpose of the nature imagery (“green pastures” and “still waters”)? What is David trying to communicate about God’s relationship with us?
- What are “paths of righteousness”? Why is it significant that God leads us in these paths “for his name’s sake”?

APPLY

- What are some of the barriers that prevent us from thinking about God as our shepherd? How can we work to believe what is true about God?
- What is your honest reaction to the phrase “I shall not want,” or, “I lack nothing”? Does this characterize your life? Why or why not?
- How can you today to live a life without lack?
- What are some of the ways we rebel against God’s leading in our lives? How can you submit to his kind leadership more in this season?
- Do you have a hard time feeling refreshed in your soul by God? Why or why not?
- How does following Jesus in community shape the way we understand and live out Psalm 23?

PRAY

- Have someone in your group slowly and meditatively read through Psalm 23:1-3. As the Psalm is read, prayerfully consider how God might be speaking to you in this moment. Spend a few moments in the silence, and then have someone close the time in prayer.
- Give each person in your group an opportunity to share ways they are tempted to view God rather than shepherd (absent father, mean judge, etc.), and then spend time praying for each other, that the Holy Spirit would guide each person into right belief about God.

NOTES

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