

VALLEYS

"THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH"

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¹ The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. ³ He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. – **Psalm 23**

¹¹ He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young. – **Isaiah 40:11** (NIV)

¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me – **John 10:14**

1. In the valleys, a shepherd PROVIDES.

³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. – **Matthew 6:31-33**

¹⁹ And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. – **Philippians 4:19**

2. In the valleys, a shepherd DIRECTS.

²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. – **John 10:27**

3. In the valleys, a shepherd CORRECTS.

⁶ For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives. – **Hebrews 12:6**

4. In the valleys, a shepherd PROTECTS.

¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. – **John 10:11**

Unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures are from the English Standard Version (ESV).

NOTES FOR FURTHER STUDY

REFLECTION

- What does it mean to you that Jesus is a Good Shepherd?
- Has there ever been a time in your life when you felt like you were walking through the valley of the shadow of death? What was that like? Did you know Jesus at the time? If so, how did He help you?

DIGGING DEEPER

- What does darkness represent in each of the following verses? How does the metaphor of darkness help you understand each of the things these verses talk about? Which of these verses resonates the most with you?
 - **Proverbs 4:19 & John 3:19-21.**
 - **1 John 1:5-7.**
 - **Psalm 82:5.**
 - **Isaiah 42:16.**
 - **Isaiah 45:7.**
 - **Lamentations 3:1-6.**
 - Is there anything else that darkness represents to you?
- Read **Isaiah 9:2, Luke 1:78-79, & John 8:12.**
 - What does light represent in these verses?
 - How does the "light" from these verses overcome each of the kinds of "darkness" from the previous verses?
- Read **Isaiah 60:19, Revelation 21:23, & Revelation 22:5.**
 - Beyond this present life in eternity, what will be the only source of light we need? What does this mean? (See also **Psalm 84:10-12.**)