

PSALM 23

VERSE TO MEMORIZE

*“The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want..” -Psalm 23:1*

CHALLENGE

Who are you following? Who are you listening to? Who is your shepherd? The God of all creation wants to be your shepherd. He wants to give you rest. He wants to give you victory. He wants to give you a place to call home and be with you for eternity. Call upon the Lord as your shepherd today and allow Him to lead you.

1. Under what circumstances would you be willing to surrender your desire to lead and submit yourself to follow someone else? Would it be easy to follow?
2. Would you rather lead or follow? Why did you answer the way you did?
3. Describe a good leader. What qualities does it take to lead well? Who has demonstrated great leadership and gained your trust as a follower?
4. Describe a good follower. What qualities must a good follower demonstrate? Who has been an example to you of being a good follower?
5. This is one of the most popular psalms in the entire book of Psalms. Have you heard this psalm before? If so, where have you heard it read or preached?
6. What are some characteristics of sheep? Do they need a shepherd? What happens to them if they are left alone?
7. What are some characteristics of a shepherd? What are shepherds good at? Why are they needed?
8. Who is the author of this psalm? What did the author know about being a shepherd? Read 1 Samuel 16:1 & 6-13.
9. Who is the Shepherd described in this psalm? What is the name of this Shepherd? Read Exodus 3:13-14. What did Jesus say about himself in John 10:7-11? What does this tell you about Jesus and His desire to lead you?
10. Have you ever been in want? How does the Shepherd settle you and calm you when you struggle with contentment?

PSALM 23

11. Have you ever needed rest? What happens when sheep lie down in green pastures?
12. Have you ever needed replenishment or restoration? Where does the shepherd lead those who need to be filled? What does the shepherd do for the soul of those who follow? Read Psalm 23:2-3.
13. Which path does the Shepherd lead those who will follow him? Have you ever walked the path of unrighteousness? If so, where did it take you?
14. What is the “valley of the shadow of death”? Have you ever walked in that valley? If so, what was that time in your life like?
15. What does the Shepherd provide as his sheep walk through the valley of death? Read Psalm 23:4.
16. What happens to fear when the shepherd is with his sheep?
17. What does a shepherd do with his rod and staff? What do the shepherd’s rod and staff provide for the sheep as they follow?
18. Why, or how, do the shepherd’s rod and staff bring comfort?
19. What kind of hope and strength for tomorrow does the Lord bring to those who follow him? Read Psalm 23:5- 6.
20. What picture comes to mind of a banquet table prepared for the sheep? Read Matthew 26:26-29. Does this picture give you hope and strength? If so, why?
21. When have you needed to be reminded of the victory that awaits you at the end of this life? How can a glimpse of future victory give you strength and peace in the midst of the trials that you face today?
22. What future promise does this psalm give to those who will follow the Lord? Read Psalm 23:6.
23. When Jesus was about to be crucified, what message did he tell his disciples that pointed them to a future hope? Read John 14:1-3.
24. What is it about heaven that compels you to follow the Lord and submit to him as your Shepherd?