

Discussion Guide (August 13, 2023)

Isuwa Atsen

Message: *Embracing the Lord's Shepherding* (series: *Wise Up*)

PRIMARY PASSAGE: Psalm 23:1-6 (ESV)

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. 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. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS

We cannot live this life well all by ourselves and in our own strengths. We need the Lord to help us by shepherding our lives. Psalm 23 shows us that when God shepherds our lives, He makes life beautiful, and when there is trouble, He makes life bearable. He is the one who gives us good things to enjoy, and gives us the grace to endure bad times. Therefore, we should trust in Him completely and embrace His work of shepherding our lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. As mentioned in the sermon, what specific things does God do to make our lives beautiful?
2. What would you say are some key differences between just having an affluent life and having a truly beautiful life?
3. How does the Good Shepherd make life bearable for His sheep?
4. What deep darkness have you gone through or are currently going through in your life, and what made you realize that God has been with you in the darkness? (Please only share what you are comfortable disclosing).
5. In what practical ways do you think we can more consciously subject ourselves under the shepherding care of the Lord?

Sovereign Lord, thank You for Your work of shepherding my life in times of both prosperity and adversity. Please, help me to resist the temptation of wanting to do it all on my own and help me to continually submit myself to your guidance and care—in Jesus's name. Amen!