

## **Small Group Guide: The Lord is My Shepherd (Psalm 23)**

### **Opening Prayer**

#### **Key Takeaways:**

1. God often teaches us the most valuable lessons in dark valleys and difficult times.
2. Our experiences in hardship can be used to comfort and help others going through similar struggles.
3. As believers, we are anointed with the Holy Spirit and called to a purpose.
4. God's goodness and mercy actively pursue us throughout our lives.
5. Our ultimate destination is eternal life with God, free from pain and suffering.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. The pastor contrasted being led by a shepherd versus being driven like cattle. How have you experienced God's gentle leading in your life?
2. Reflect on a time when you went through a "dark valley." How did God meet you there, and what did you learn?
3. The sermon emphasized that the table is set in the presence of enemies, not in green pastures. Why do you think God often chooses difficult circumstances to draw us closer to Him?
4. How has God used your past struggles or pain to help you minister to others?
5. The pastor talked about our "cup overflowing." In what ways has God's abundance in your life spilled over to bless others?
6. Discuss the concept of God's goodness and mercy pursuing us. How have you experienced this in your own life?

#### **Practical Applications:**

1. Identify someone in your life who may be going through a difficult time. How can you use your own experiences to offer comfort and support?
2. Reflect on ways your "cup is overflowing." Make a plan to intentionally use those blessings to serve others this week.
3. Practice sharing your testimony, focusing on how God has worked in your life through both good times and challenges.
4. Set aside time each day this week to meditate on Psalm 23, asking God to deepen your trust in Him as your shepherd.
5. Look for opportunities to show God's love to someone outside your usual social circle, remembering Jesus' example with the Samaritans.

#### **Closing Prayer:**

Thank God for being our Good Shepherd, leading us through all of life's circumstances. Ask for His help in pouring out His love to others and living with eternity in mind.