

## Psalm 23: The Shepherd

1. Why do you think this psalm has always been so popular?
2. V1: "I shall not want" or "I have everything I need." What are the things that most people you know would admit are necessary to lead a fulfilled and contented life? What are the things that are most necessary to you?
3. Verses 2 and 3 provide an idyllic picture of the shepherd and his sheep. Look at each of the four statements in these verses. How can they be applied to the lives of believers?
4. Verse 4 is more sombre. Why do you think David refers to this difficult experience as "the valley of the shadow of death?"
5. How can we experience the blessings of verses 1-3 when we are going through the darkness of verse 4? How can we find comfort in Jesus, the good Shepherd, when we have dark days?
6. The picture changes in verses 5 and 6 with the shepherd becoming the host and "he" being replaced with "you." What does it mean for goodness and mercy to follow us?
7. What does it mean to 'dwell in the house of the Lord for ever'?

Psalm 23 expresses calm confidence in the face of a dark situation. It highlights the blessing that come from the Good Shepherd. As a group, think and pray about some of the obvious applications for your lives as followers of Christ.