

## LIFE GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

## *Psalms Series*

These questions are for the **January 9, 2022**, sermon, “Song of the Shepherd, Part 1.” Please read the sermon passage (Psalm 23:1-3) together out loud.

### Sermon Outline

NOTE HOW THE LORD, OUR SHEPHERD-KING, LEADS, PROTECTS AND GUIDES HIS PEOPLE. . .

1. Verse one: “The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.”
  - a. The LORD is “I AM,” of Yahweh.
    - i. He is the self-sufficient one. The personal God who makes and keeps promises.
    - ii. We must begin every day, every prayer, and every story with, “the LORD.”
  - b. He belongs to those who trust him: he is “my Shepherd.” (My is the emphasized word.)
  - c. “Shepherd,” or “Shepherd-king.” We know him and trust as things get better or worse.
    - i. We must always begin with the provider, not the provisions.
    - ii. God is good and sufficient in green pastures and shadowy valleys.
2. Verse two: “He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.”
  - a. HE MAKES MY LIE DOWN in green pastures.
    - i. “We” might not lie down because of fear, infighting, torment or hunger.
    - ii. But the Shepherd “makes” us lie down and we rest with him near.
  - b. HE LEADS US beside still waters.
    - i. He takes the initiative, and the sheep faithfully take the next step.
    - ii. “Stilled waters”: the Shepherd’s role in life-sustaining hydration.
3. Verse three: “He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.”
  - a. HE RESTORES my soul. Sheep can be “cast” (Psalm 42:11), but he puts us on our feet.
  - b. HE LEADS US in paths of righteousness.
    - i. Don’t despise the newness of the Shepherd’s leading. He is with you.
    - ii. “His name’s sake.” To make “the LORD” known by the way the sheep walk.

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: We begin every thought process by meditating on this: “the LORD.” If he is present then we are safe, whether the pasture is green, or the valley is dark. How can you improve at beginning every thought, every emotion, every plan and every dream by acknowledging the LORD’s presence and pre-eminence?
2. Based on #1, above: What does it look like for you to value, to trust and to depend on the Lord in “green pastures”? How do you remain dependent upon and enraptured with the LORD while the sun is shining and things are going well for you?
3. Based on #2, above: Leading requires moving forward. The LORD leads the sheep forward. Always. When we like it and when we don’t. And the sheep must go. The only question is, “will we have a good attitude, trusting the shepherd?” Or “Will we go kicking and bucking?” What are some “next steps” in your life? Are you content to let the LORD lead? Are you bucking?
4. Based on #3, above: The entire course of your life—every step—is in invitation for the world (and other sheep) to see your faith and glorify God (“for your name’s sake.”). How’s that going?