

# Spiritual Talk

Discussion and Understand the Context are adapted from EXPLORE THE BIBLE: PSALMS –INSPIRING TRUTHS  
Lifeway Press 2017

## Psalm 23

1. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
2. He makes me lie down in green pastures.  
He leads me beside still waters.
3. He restores my soul.  
He leads me in paths of righteousness  
for his name's sake.
4. 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.
5. You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.
6. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
forever.

## Understand the Context

David was a shepherd in his youth. As a shepherd, he would have spent long hours alone with his father's sheep. Sheep not only provided food and wool for the family, but they were also a measure of family wealth. Therefore, a shepherd's responsibility for the sheep's welfare directly affected the family's survival and status. The wilderness of Judah could be an inhospitable place for sheep. Water and grass were scarce. Consequently, David would have frequently moved his flocks to new locations to feed and water them. He fought predators such as bears and lions in order to protect the sheep.

In Psalm 23 David depicted his relationship with God in terms of a shepherd and his sheep. He drew from his own experience of what his sheep needed and what he offered them. Just as David supplied nourishment, protection and shelter for his sheep, God provided direction, security, and care for him.

God is our personal shepherd, just as He was for David.

## Discussion

- What are some ways God provides safety and the necessities of life?
- How do sheep express trust in the shepherd? In what ways is obedience a function of trust?
- How do verses 5—6 encourage you in times of prosperity? How do they encourage you during times of trouble?

