



PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE—YOUTH

Lesson 5: God is the Shepherd, We are the Lambs—Psalm 23

ENCOUNTER—Community Discussion

After reading the passage, take time to journal through the questions below. Don't feel like you have to answer all these questions. Wrestle with the text, and be prepared to share with your community.

How is this God's story?

How is this others' story?

How is this my story?

How is this the world's story?

PRAYER

*The Lord is my light and my salvation—
whom shall I fear?*

*The LORD is the stronghold of my life—
of whom shall I be afraid?*

*When the wicked advance against me
to devour me,*

*it is my enemies and my foes
who will stumble and fall.*

*Though an army besiege me,
my heart will not fear;
though war break out against me,
even then I will be confident.*

*One thing I ask from the LORD,
this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,*

*to gaze on the beauty of the LORD
and to seek him in his temple.*

*For in the day of trouble
he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent
and set me high upon a rock.*

*Then my head will be exalted
above the enemies who surround me;
at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make music to the LORD.*

*Hear my voice when I call, LORD;
be merciful to me and answer me.*

*My heart says of you, "Seek his face!"
Your face, LORD, I will seek.*

*Do not hide your face from me,
do not turn your servant away in anger;
you have been my helper.*

*Do not reject me or forsake me,
God my Savior.*

*Though my father and mother forsake me,
the LORD will receive me.*

*Teach me your way, LORD;
lead me in a straight path
because of my oppressors.*

*Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes,
for false witnesses rise up against me,
spouting malicious accusations.*

*I remain confident of this:
I will see the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living.
Wait for the LORD;
be strong and take heart
and wait for the LORD.*

(Psalm 27)

WEEKLY PRACTICE

Much of our days are spent at school, with friends, doing homework, or extra-curricular activities. Often we are constantly busy from the time we wake up until our eyes close to go to sleep. Try going to sleep for the next week by reading Psalm 23 out loud. As you close your eyes, get comfortable and replay the psalm in your head, taking note of every detail you can remember. Relax in its truths, then sleep. When you wake up, read Psalm 23 again before you let your feet hit the floor.

BECOMING MY STORY

Micah 5

John 10

Spend time this week reading and journaling through the above scriptures. In the context of Psalm 23, consider the following questions:

Am I living today as if I am the shepherd of my life or God is the shepherd of my life?

What "lambs" are wandering off that God may want to use me to bring back toward him?

Consider other passages you might know related to Psalm 23 and read them this week, journaling as you go.