

I. Introduction: David writes this song to show how God is like a good shepherd, who leads us, provides for us, comforts us, protects us, and blesses us.

- A. This may be the most recognizable Psalm in the Old Testament. It has been memorized by many and used to comfort those going through great difficulty.

II. God is My Shepherd (Psalm 23:1-6).

A. He's Our Leader (v. 1).

1. A shepherd is a leader who sets the direction, vision, and pace for the sheep. If a shepherd drives the sheep too fast, they will die; too slow and they will languish.

B. He's Our Provider (v. 2).

1. When the good Shepherd leads the sheep, they have everything they need. They are full, content in every way: physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

C. He's Our Comforter (v. 3).

1. The good Shepherd refreshes and revives the soul of His sheep. He leads them in the right path, for His own name's sake and for the joy of the sheep.

D. He's Our Protector (v. 4)

1. The good Shepherd leads His sheep through difficult paths and hard ways, protecting the sheep with the skill and power of His rod and staff.

E. He's Our Master (vv. 5-6).

1. The good Shepherd provides food and soothing oil for the sheep in the midst of enemies; because of Him, the sheep experience blessing, life, and goodness.

III. Conclusion: Psalm 23 is meant to show us that Jesus is the Good Shepherd, and that growing closer to Him gives us guidance, nourishment, comfort, protection, and blessing.

Questions About: God is My Shepherd

1. What comes to mind when you think of a shepherd? What are their duties? (**Psa 23:1-6**) How are God's people like sheep? (**Ps. 100:3**) What does this tell us about ourselves?
2. How is Jesus described as a shepherd? (**John 10:24; Heb 13:20; 1 Peter 5:4**) How does a shepherd lead sheep? (**John 10:4-6**) Who led David? (**Ps 23:1**) What does "my" indicate?
3. Who is the person that "shepherds" you? Whose voice do you listen to? What is the result of God's leading? (**Ps 23:1; John 10:10**) What is a sheep without a shepherd?
4. How does a good shepherd provide for his sheep? (**Psa 23:2**) Why does the Shepherd make the sheep lie down? (**v. 2**) What is the significance of the quiet waters? (**v. 2**)
5. How does the Shepherd restore the soul of the sheep? (**Psa 23:3; Psa 19:7**) How are people looking for rest for their soul? What are some ways God is trying to restore your soul?
6. What does the change of pronouns indicate, starting in verse 4? (**Psa 23:4-6**) How does difficulty drive us toward God? (**John 16:33**) Why does David not fear evil? (**v. 4**)
7. How is God described as our host? (**Psa 23:5-6**) What does it mean for someone to have their head anointed with oil? (**Ps 45:7; John 12:1-8**) Why was David's cup overflowing?
8. What does David say will follow him, all the days of his life? (**Psa 23:6**) Where does David ultimately want to live? (**v. 6**) What does this Psalm teach you about God?

Prayer

1. Will you ask God to be your Shepherd? Will you ask God to restore life to your soul?
2. Will you ask God to remind you of His presence in times of difficulty or sorrow?