

Sermon: Following and Trusting the Good Shepherd.
Series: *Psalms of Hope and Encouragement.*

Scripture: Psalm 23.
Date: May 29, 2022

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about us?

- a) Can you recall a time that you felt safe and secure? What things contributed to this feeling?
- b) What dark valley are you walking through? What lessons is God teaching you through the valley's dark shadow?
- b) Psalm 23 is very personal and intimate (MY shepherd). Do you have this same personal experience of God as your shepherd?

2. What does this passage teach us about God?

- a) Choose one of the descriptions of God in the psalm (leads by still water, restores soul, rod and staff comfort, prepares a table, etc.) How have you seen God work in your life in this way?
- b) God's "right path" for us is often through the valley of darkness/death. Why does God let us walk through these valleys? How would you explain this to someone walking through a trial?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

- a) Read John 10:11. Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd. Specifically, how does Jesus fulfill Psalm 23 for us?

APPLICATION

- a) What are some of the ways we can shepherd each other the way Psalm 23 describes?

FIGHTER VERSES: Psalm 121.

PRAYER

- Praise God for his constant shepherding of your life.
- Confess ways that you have wandered away from our shepherd.
- Thank Jesus for being your good shepherd who laid down his life for you
- Ask God to help you to trust his delight in you (v.5-6).