

## The Good Shepherd

### Read **Psalm 23: 1-6**

- *“The Lord is MY shepherd, I lack NOTHING”*: the role of a shepherd was not a job many choose to take, but rather forced by families on their youngest son (hence David was a shepherd). It was a lowly job. Yet God choose the role of a shepherd & sheep to emphasize his relationship to us. We see it all throughout scripture (**Ecclesiastes 12:11; Micah 7:14; Isaiah 40:11; 1 Peter 2:25**) that God is our shepherd- our protector, comforter, and care taker. The God of the universe has stooped down to care for you and me! **Do you have the personal connection to God like David did? Do you recognize that just by God being the shepherd in our lives, we lack NOTHING?**
- *“He MAKES me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters”*: sheep don’t always know what’s best and sometimes won’t even lie down if something is wrong. However as the good shepherd, God recognizes our needs, worries, and fears and he makes everything ok so that we can rest. He leads us to the green pastures and quiet waters- place of shelter, food, and comfort to the sheep (**Matthew 11:28; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4**). He faithfully guides us to those places. **Do we faithfully follow him? Do we follow him no matter what, because we see him as our good shepherd? In what ways do you need to grow in following the shepherd? How so?**
- *“You anoint my head with oil; my cup OVERFLOWS”*: David had a grateful heart- he recognized that all he had came from God. He was abundantly blessed by the Shepherd who met all his needs (**James 1:17; Jeremiah 17:7-8; 2 Corinthians 9:8**). **What are you grateful for? How has God overflowed your life? Write down 20 things that you see how God has overflowed your cup.**
- *“Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever”*: David had a lot of bad things happen to him in life- he was pursued by many enemies and almost killed many times, he lost a best friend and sons (one son because of his unrighteousness with Bathsheba), and his own son tried to take his throne. Yet David could look at his life and see Gods goodness to him and his blessing on him. Gods goodness and mercy will follow will follow us ALL the days of our lives, not just some of the days, but all the days! Every single day, we will experience Gods bounty (**Psalm 121; Ephesians 2:4-10; Hebrews 6:19-20**). There is no doubt about our future; no uncertainty or insecurity; we have a secure destiny with God! **What promises do you see in the scriptures that can help you have the same confidence in Gods goodness?**