

# Our Great Shepherd

Week Two | Our Shepherd Walks With Us | 11.12-13.2022

**Group Conversation Questions:** Use these questions to help you process the message in your personal study time or with your group. Time suggestions are based on a 90-minute group gathering.

**Message Recap:** Recognizing Jesus as our great shepherd is reassuring, realizing we don't have to have it all figured out and that he is guiding us and walking with us in all our uncertainties. It also requires we acknowledge some things about ourselves and our needs, even if we don't always recognize them.

## » Opening

(3 minutes)

- Introductions - This is especially important if this is your first meeting or if there are new members.
- Housekeeping - Clarify expectations:
  - Remind your group that this is a confidential meeting.
  - **Remember, there may be many thoughts and views. Please remain kind and respectful during conversations.**
- Pray - Open your time together in prayer.

## » Introduction

(12 minutes)

- Ice-Breaker: What are the things that bring you the most comfort when you are afraid?
- Digging Deeper: How might God be leading you into a place of resistance right now? What kind of comfort do you need at this moment?

## » Observation | Read Psalm 23; Revelation 21:1-7, 22-25

(12 minutes)

- What are your initial reactions to these passages? What do you find challenging? Are you encouraged by any of these verses? Why?

## » Key Principle | Our inevitable resistance requires God's unquestionable existence.

(12 minutes)

- What is a rule enforced in your childhood that you didn't appreciate? Do you see it differently from an adult perspective?
- Do you see natural consequences as unfair punishments? Why or why not?

## » Prescribed Pain | Reread Psalm 23:4; Proverbs 13:24; Jeremiah 30:15; Matthew 4:16,17; Revelation 21:22-25

(12 minutes)

- Why would a loving God allow the natural consequences of sin to hurt His people? Would it be loving not to?
- If Jesus is the light of heaven, should we expect shadows there? Does that change our thoughts on the shadow of death?

## » Permanent Presence | Reread Psalm 23:4; Jeremiah 30:22; Matthew 4:18-22; Revelation 21:1-3

(12 minutes)

- Jesus is still inviting us to follow Him. What does that look like in our current situation?
- How should we deal with evil since fear is not intended for us?

## » Practical Protection | Reread Psalm 23:4; Jeremiah 30:18-20; Matthew 4:23-25; Revelation 21:4-7

(12 minutes)

- How does the gospel message draw people closer, like the hooked end of a shepherd's staff?
- Why does Jesus' rod comfort those who follow Him and conquer sin, even though a rod could be associated with pain?

## » Next Steps and Prayer |

(15 minutes)

- What areas from today's passage give you hope for what is in front of you this week? What practical reminders could help you this week?
- Before you close, talk about the "valleys" you are facing. Spend time praying for each person to feel God's presence and peace.