

PSALM 23



The Lord is my
SHEPHERD.

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WEEK 1

“THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD; I SHALL NOT WANT.” Psalm 23:1

1. After hearing the introductory talk, which emphasis on the first phrase of the psalm resonated with you the most?
 - a. The LORD is my Shepherd
 - b. The Lord is MY Shepherd
 - c. The Lord is my SHEPHERD

2. Where and how has Psalm 23 entered or affected your life?

WEEK 2

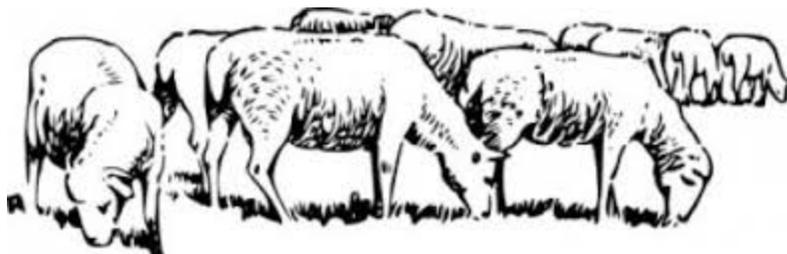
1. After reflection this week, how do you interpret the Psalmist's words "I shall not want"?
2. In your opinion, what is the lesson of "Mrs. Gad-About"? (Read Matthew 18: 6 and 1 Timothy 6:10).
3. Describe Philip Keller's interpretation of the Trinity found on pages 16 &17.

"HE MAKES ME LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES." Psalm 23:2

4. What four things keep sheep from finding rest? Name some things that make you restless and cause you to lose peace. Describe a time or an experience in which the Good Shepherd provided a lush, green pasture in your life where you were able to lie down in perfect peace. (Read Matthew 11:28-29 and John 16:33).

"HE LEADS ME BESIDE STILL WATERS." Psalm 23:2

5. Read Jeremiah 2:13. Describe what the term "broken cisterns" means to you. What are some of the "broken cisterns" from which you drink?
6. Because sheep can be nourished all day with the dew from grasses, how can this speak to us about spending quiet time with the Good Shepherd every morning?





WEEK 3

“HE RESTORES MY SOUL.” Psalm 23:3

1. Mr. Keller writes that when a sheep is “cast down”, it cannot right itself and will die without help. What could cause a Christian to become “cast down”?
2. Read 1 John 1:6-9. How does the Good Shepherd set us right when we are “cast down”?

“HE GUIDES ME IN PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR HIS NAME’S SAKE.” Psalm 23:3

3. Mr. Keller points out that a shepherd must keep his flock on the move, so they do not destroy the grazing land and, therefore, starve or get sick. What causes us to get in spiritual ruts? How does this show us the need for our continual spiritual growth and transformation in the Holy Spirit? (Read Ezekiel 36:26-27).
4. List the seven attitudes, beginning on page 91, that must be acquired by us as disciples to follow the Good Shepherd as sheep follow their shepherd. Using the attitudes as your guide, which one presents the greatest challenge to you?
5. In your understanding, what are the “paths of righteousness”? (Read Proverbs 3:5-6).



WEEK 4

“YEA, THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH, I WILL FEAR NO EVIL.” Psalm 23:4

1. In the first three verses, the Shepherd is mentioned in the third person: “He leads me.... He makes me.... He restores my soul... He guides me.....” In the fourth verse, however, the case of the pronoun changes from third to second person, from “He” to “You” (“...for You are with me...”). The author is no longer speaking ABOUT the Shepherd but is speaking TO the Shepherd. How is this meaningful? Why do you think it happens in this verse?
2. What are the three reasons Mr. Keller gives to explain why the sheep are led by way of valleys to reach the high ground? How do these apply to us?
3. What types of things cause fear in life? How do people respond to fear apart from the Lord? Describe a time in which you were in the valley of the shadow.

“FOR YOU ARE WITH ME, YOUR ROD AND YOUR STAFF COMFORT ME.” Psalm 23:4

4. Describe how a shepherd uses his rod and staff for the good of his sheep. How does the Good Shepherd use His rod to give us comfort as WE walk in dark valleys? How does the Good Shepherd use His staff to guide and protect US? (Read Philippians 4:6,7).

WEEK 5

“YOU PREPARE A TABLE BEFORE ME IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES.” Psalm 23:5

1. In the summer, the shepherd leads his sheep through the valleys to their summer “tablelands” or mesas high atop the mountains. Why does the Good Shepherd sometimes lead us through valleys before we can reach the mountaintops? What are some “good” things we experience in the valleys?
2. The shepherd must go before the sheep to rid the tablelands of evils which might befall the sheep. When have you been able to perceive that the Good Shepherd has gone before you to prepare a tableland of safety and serenity for you? What evils do you think He has to clear out before He can “set your tableland”?
3. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, came to earth to prepare the table for our salvation. What sacrifices did He make to prepare that table?
(Read John 1:10-12, 1 Peter 1:3).

“YOU HAVE ANOINTED MY HEAD WITH OIL, MY CUP OVERFLOWS.” Psalm 23:5

4. A shepherd must anoint each sheep's head DAILY with special oil and ointments to rid them of bothersome distractions, the worst of which is scab, a highly contagious parasite. How is sin similar to scab; and how does it affect the human condition?
5. What daily anointing does the Good Shepherd make available to us? Why is it important for us to “stay still” during the anointing? What benefits do we enjoy from this anointing throughout the rest of the day?
6. To what does Mr. Keller's cup refer (see page 150ff.)? What are some of the cups that the Good Shepherd offers to us? How do they restore our faith?



WEEK 6

“SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY WILL FOLLOW ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE.” Psalm 23:6

1. Having been a shepherd when he wrote Psalm 23, David knew that sheep are sometimes exposed to terrible, life-threatening storms. We, too, can be jolted by the storms of life. But, Psalm 23 declares that the Lord's goodness and mercy will be with us in these times. According to the following verses, why can we have fearless hope for the future in spite of the unknown storms to come?
(Read Romans 8:28, 31-32 and Jeremiah 29:11).
2. What does the Lord want us to experience in every season of our lives as we put our hope in Him?

“AND I WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER.” Psalm 23:6

3. In the Fall, the shepherd leads his sheep back from the high tablelands through the valleys until they arrive at their home ranch where they will spend the winter in safety and security. The Good Shepherd leads us to His House.
What does the “House of the Lord” mean to you?
4. Do you believe and/or feel that you are living in the House of the Lord on earth today? If so, how? How is the hope the Lord gives you different from the hope of the world?
5. What do you imagine the eternal House of the Lord will be like?
6. What did Jesus promise as He identified Himself as the Good Shepherd?
(Read John 10:27-28, John 11:25-26, and Isaiah 40:11).

