

# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of May 9-15, 2021

**"THE LORD, MY SHEPHERD"**

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## GETTING STARTED

*To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.*

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

Describe a time when you got lost. What happened? How did you lose your way? How did the situation resolve?

## GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Psalm 23:1-6

1. David was a human being who had his fair share of ups and downs. From what you know about David in the Scriptures, can you list / enumerate his positive and negative experiences? How could a deeper understanding of David's life shape the way you relate to his words in Psalm 23?
2. What comes to mind when you think of the word "shepherd"? What are some characteristics of sheep? Read John 10:11, Hebrews 13:20, 1 Peter 5:4. How is Jesus described as a shepherd?
3. Read John 10:1-18. What characteristics of Jesus stand out to you based on how John describes him in this passage? How do those characteristics compare to the way David describes the Lord in Psalm 23?
4. John 10 tells us that the sheep hears Jesus' voice. But Jesus is not the only voice we hear in the world today. Some examples include: our personal desires, culture and relationships. How have these led you astray from following Jesus in the past?
5. What does it mean when David says that he lacks nothing? How have you experienced this in the past? What might change in your life if you realize that God has provided (and will continue to provide) everything that you need? Be specific.

6. Read Isaiah 40:10-11. What are some fears or worries that you face today? How do these words from Isaiah encourage you?

7. (Optional). Look again to your answers from #3. As you consider the things that characterize the sheep that follow Jesus, which ones are you doing well? Are there any that need work?

## 8. [NEXT STEPS]

*When the Lord is our shepherd, we lack nothing of what we truly need in life.*

- I will surrender my fears to the Lord.
- I will actively let the Lord lead me and guide me.
- I will trust God for his provision.
- I will be careful to distinguish my "needs" from my "wants."

*Don't forget to:*

- Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.
- Commit 30 minutes a day for God's intervention in this fight against the COVID virus.

## CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Ask the Lord to reveal to you any of the ways you are following false shepherds.
- Take the time to pray for our nation, for peace and for the gospel to prosper during this time of the pandemic.
- Pray for those who are hurting, going through fear, worry and anxiety in the group.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.