

Psalm 23

to-daw': *an extension of the hand. thanksgiving. a confession. a sacrifice of praise. thanksgiving for things not yet received. a choir of worshippers.*

v. 1

- This is not a psalm about valleys, it's a psalm about the Shepherd.

v. 2

- Expect some frustration and confusion.
- God's "no's" are never arbitrary.
- Never compromise to get around a "no" or "not yet".
- Expect to be led gently.

v. 3

- Expect a blessing, not a berating.
- Expect to be led clearly.
- God's will is easy to find – just obey what you already know!

v. 4

- Expect valleys, keep following fearlessly, expect mountain tops.
- Companionship, direction, and protection.

v. 5

- Who is sitting at your table?
- Do not let the enemy at the table have a voice.

v. 6

- You're never alone. Acknowledge the goodness and mercy along the way.
- Remember the destination.

In light of what I have learned today, what do I need to do to obey God?

Life Group Questions

Getting to know you...

There are several Scriptures that refer to sheep. Read the following passages and write down what each of these metaphors teaches us about our relationship with God:

- John 10:1-11
- Psalm 95:6-7
- 1 Peter 2:25
- Matthew 9:36

Read it aloud... Psalm 23

One thing we saw was that it can be frustrating and confusing when God "makes us lie down in green pastures". Have there been times in your life when you felt God's firm hand steering you to a blessing that otherwise you would have walked by and missed?

Taking it Home...

How has God led you into right living?

We all face valleys but we do not have to be afraid? What valley are you currently facing? Are you open to correction? Are you allowing God to protect you? How?

We have enemies to our life (Satan).

- Does he have a place at your table?
- Who do you allow to have a voice in your life?
- Is there any ungodly voices that need to be kicked out of your table?

You are anointed. What does that mean to you? How do you live this out in your life? Do you need to claim anew your blessing from God?

Remember the destination. How does that effect your daily life? Describe the house of the Lord.