

Sermon: **“The Lord Provides” (Psalm 23)**

Date: **April 5, 2020**

Psalm 23 is perhaps the most well-known psalm in the Psalter. Christians have come back to this psalm time and time again for comfort and consolation during times of trial, difficulty, and sorrow. It reminds us that the LORD is our Shepherd and that he cares for his sheep. This is a needed reminder for us in this especially trying time. Perhaps more than any other time in our lives, we have the opportunity to trust the LORD as our Shepherd in a way that many of us have never done before. He is taking us—his sheep—one a journey from one spot to another. We’ve come from a place that we were familiar and comfortable with, and now we’re on a journey to a completely foreign destination. We do not know how long this journey will last. We do not know how difficult the journey will be. We do not know what life will be like on the other side of this journey. But we do know that we have a Good Shepherd who is always with us. He cares for us, provides for us, defends us, and leads us. Life is hard right now, but we the LORD is our Shepherd. He is all we need.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

### **Individual Bible Study**

1. Please read Psalm 23 and ensure that you’ve listened to Sunday’s sermon.
  - a. Verse 1 says that the LORD is our shepherd. What does the word LORD tell us about our shepherd?
  - b. Briefly describe what a shepherd’s life is like. What is a shepherd’s relationship like with his sheep? What does he do for his sheep?
  - c. What is significant about the word “makes” in verse 2?
  - d. What does the phrase “green pastures” represent in verse 2? What is the purpose of green pastures for a flock of sheep?
  - e. Verse 2 also says that he leads us beside “still waters.” What do “still waters” represent? What is his purpose in leading us beside still waters?
  - f. Verse 3 says that he restores our soul. There times where restoration is needed. What does this tell us about the difficulty of this journey that he’s taking us on?

g. Explain the phrase “paths of righteousness,” (v. 3).

h. Why does he lead us on paths of righteousness? What is his intended result in taking us down these paths?

### **Group Discussion Questions**

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. Why do you think Psalm 23 is likely the most well-known and quoted psalm in the book of Psalms? What about this psalm makes it so memorable and adored?
3. “The LORD is my shepherd; *I shall not want.*” How does understanding and believing that the LORD is our shepherd lead to Christian contentment, even in difficult times?
4. God is making many of us “lie down in green pastures” right now. How can we truly rest during this difficult time? What can we do to make the most of these green pastures?
5. In the sermon, we learned that God has a purpose for us in leading us down paths of righteousness (v. 3). What is his purpose for leading us down these difficult paths? What are some Scriptures that speak to this? (Example: Philippians 1:6, Jude 1:24)

### **Church-Wide Prayer Requests**

- Pray for God to increase our trust in the LORD as our Shepherd, such that we shall not want (Psalm 23:1)
- Pray for the Lord to manifest the hope of Christ in our lives as a witness to the world around us (1 Peter 3:15).