



# PSALM 23 DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK 1



### MAIN SCRIPTURES:

Psalm 23:1 & 4

### SECONDARY:

John 10:1-18

### MAIN POINT:

Jesus is our Good Shepherd in life's highest highs and lowest lows.

### JESUS CONNECTION:

Jesus is our Good Shepherd and through faith in Him we have full life.

## LEADER CORNER

### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

For students to...

- (1) To know that God is present with us as we walk through times of suffering.
- (2) To feel confidence when facing difficulty based on the comfort experienced through God's presence.

### THINK ABOUT THIS

"Give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime."

Students coming to Small Group to hang out and talk about God's Word is GREAT! Students going to God's Word on their own to connect personally with Him = EVEN BETTER! Encourage your students to spend time on their own in His Word.

### HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

*This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.*

## CONVERSATION GUIDE

### GET THEM TALKING

**What kinds of things help boost your mood throughout the day?** (Some answers could include: a cup of coffee, a kind text from a friend, a favorite snack, etc.)

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think the mood-boost from these things doesn't always last?

**READ PSALM 23:1 & 4 and answer the following questions:**

1. In your own words, what are these verses saying?
2. What comes to mind when you hear the phrase "the valley of the shadow of death"?
3. What valleys have you experienced in your life?
4. What gave David confidence to face the valley?

**READ JOHN 10:7-13 and answer the following questions:**

5. What stands out to you about Jesus based on these verses?
6. How do they describe His relationship to His sheep?
7. How can knowing Jesus loves and cares for us give us strength?

### NEXT STEP

This series comes with a study guide to lead you through spending some time in this month's Bible verses on your own. Take a guide home with you or download it from online and spend some time on your own this week studying God's word.

### PRAYER GUIDE

Ask your students to share their prayer requests and close your time together in prayer.

## MAIN SCRIPTURES

### Psalm 23 NLT

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my Shepherd;  
I have all that I need.

<sup>2</sup> He lets me rest in green meadows;  
He leads me beside peaceful streams.

<sup>3</sup> He renews my strength.  
He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to His name.

<sup>4</sup> Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for  
you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort  
me.

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor  
me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings.

<sup>6</sup> Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of  
my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.”

### John 10:7-13 NLT

<sup>7</sup> so he [Jesus] explained it to them: “I tell you the truth, I am the gate  
for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me were thieves and robbers. But  
the true sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>Yes, I am the gate. Those who  
come in through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and  
will find good pastures. <sup>10</sup>The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and  
destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

<sup>11</sup> “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for  
the sheep. <sup>12</sup>A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will  
abandon the sheep because they don’t belong to him and he isn’t  
their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the  
flock. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because he’s working only for the  
money and doesn’t really care about the sheep.”