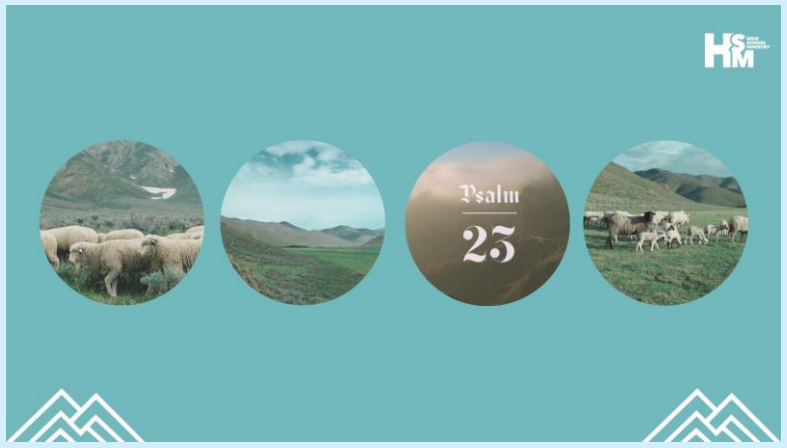




PSALM 23
STUDY GUIDE
MAY 2021



MAIN SCRIPTURES:
Psalm 23
John 10:1-18

For our HSM May series, we will be studying the same Scriptures every week – zooming in on different verses and their applications for our lives each week. So we have one study guide for the month, but we encourage you to come back to it every week. God’s Word is living and active (Hebrews 4:12), so sometimes different things can be highlighted and revealed to us at different times to bring us new life, transformation, and wisdom right where we are at that time.

@HopeHSM

1. READ *The Bible* Yessss! We are glad you are here because taking time on your own to study God’s word is an amazing way to grow in your relationship with Him. Life with Jesus is the best life! Take a moment to pray and ask God to lead you as you study this Scripture; then read the Scripture (*from your Bible or it’s attached*).

2. OBSERVE
The Straight Facts

Who: _____

What: _____

Where: _____

Why: _____

How: _____

What is Repetitive?

Highlight it

What is Contrast?

Underline it

3. INTERPRET
What Does the Text Mean?

Research answers using trusted sources like a Study Bible, BibleProject.com, BlueLetterBible.org, and/or Bible.org

What is the historical and/or cultural context of this Scripture? **see attached for more*

What else do I know about the author, audience, or context of this passage?

What do key words mean in their original language?

What other Scripture might help me interpret this text?

What is this text’s clearest meaning?

4. APPLY
Getting Personal

How do you relate to any of the characters, events, or words in this Scripture?

What truth(s) from this Scripture can you apply to your life right now?

What is God saying to you through this Scripture?

MAIN SCRIPTURES

Psalm 23 NLT

¹ The Lord is my Shepherd;
I have all that I need.

² He lets me rest in green meadows;
He leads me beside peaceful streams.

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

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.

Some Cultural Context for Psalm 23:

- “The Lord is my Shepherd” David, who wrote this Psalm, grew up a shepherd. So David is comparing God to something he knows well. It’s like a doctor comparing God to be a doctor or a professional video gamer comparing God to their favorite XBOX console. David is taking what he knows in his life, and what he sees of God’s character, and writing a poem to God about it.
- “The rod” – used by shepherd to defend sheep. David used the rod to defend his sheep from lions, bears, and other threats. God uses His staff to defend and protect us.
- “The staff” – guides sheep through tough terrain. Like a candy cane it has a hook on the end that can gently hook around the sheep’s neck to help guide it away from rocky, dangerous ground when needed. How has God done this in your life?
- “Anointing my head with oil” – when someone did this back in the day it was a symbol of honor, showing others you were a special V.I.P. guest to the party.

NOTES

DOODLES

MAIN SCRIPTURES

John 10:1-18 NLT

The Good Shepherd and His Sheep

10 "I tell you the truth, anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold, rather than going through the gate, must surely be a thief and a robber! **2** But the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. **3** The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. **4** After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. **5** They won't follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don't know his voice."

6 Those who heard Jesus use this illustration didn't understand what he meant, **7** so he explained it to them: "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. **8** All who came before me^[a] were thieves and robbers. But the true sheep did not listen to them. **9** Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved.^[b] They will come and go freely and will find good pastures. **10** The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. **12** 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. **13** The hired hand runs away because he's working only for the money and doesn't really care about the sheep.

14 "I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, **15** just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep. **16** I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock with one shepherd.

17 "The Father loves me because I sacrifice my life so I may take it back again. **18** No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded.

NOTES

DOODLES