

MESSAGE

LIVING THE GOOD LIFE

JULY 19/20, 2014 | PASTOR MATT ERICKSON | PSALM 23:1-4 | THE GOOD LIFE SERIES

"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want." (Psalm 23:1)

Starting with an Appropriate View of God

- God who is the LORD
- God who is a shepherd
- God who is my shepherd

Living with God as Shepherd

- Living as a sheep
- Living the full life
- Living the guided life
- Living the purposeful life
- Living the glorious life

STUDY GUIDE

1. This week we begin two weeks looking at "The Good Life" through Psalm 23. We want to explore what it means to live a Psalm 23 type of life all the time. Whether you are alone or with a small group, begin by asking God to speak to you and then read Psalm 23 aloud.
2. The image of the shepherd is commonly used of God in the Bible. Read some or all of the following passages, then consider what it means that the LORD (*Yahweh*) is your shepherd:
 - Genesis 49:24
 - Psalm 77:20; 78:52, 70-72; 79:13; 80:1
 - Isaiah 40:11
 - Micah 7:14
 - John 10:11
 - Hebrews 13:20
3. What would you say is the difference in meaning between the phrase "God is a shepherd" and "the LORD is my shepherd"? What does that communicate to you about your relationship with God?
4. Sheep require certain conditions for peace, comfort and provision. What is significant about God's actions and provision in verses 2 and 3?
5. The end of verse 3 offers perspective on what God's ultimate aim is. How do you think God's presence and provision for us might relate with it being "for His name's sake"?
6. We will continue to look at verse 4 next week, but it is sufficient to mention that God's presence changes the encounters we have with dark and fearful valleys. When and how have you experienced God's presence in dark times in life?
7. One notable thing about Psalm 23 is that it is attributed to David who, as a great warrior king, was both powerful and strong. What is the meaning and significance of David putting himself in the place of a sheep with God as his shepherd? What does it look like for you to live that way in your life?
8. What is one specific truth or point of application that God is speaking to you through this study, and how will you live that out this week? Write it down. If you are in a small group, share your thoughts with one another.