

Week Five: Never Alone (David)

OPENING

- What image of God do you find most comforting? Father, shepherd, savior, friend, or something else? Explain what and why?
- Read Psalm 23.

STUDY

- Describe each of the shepherd-like qualities/actions David is attributing to the Lord.
- What would each of these qualities/actions mean for a sheep?
- How about for David? How does trusting the Shepherd affect his own life, attitudes, and actions?
- Why do you think David chooses the shepherd/sheep metaphor to describe His God and himself?
- When have you experienced the Lord as your Shepherd? Explain.
- Which of the benefits of trusting this Shepherd, as described in this passage, do you most closely relate to or are the most compelling to you?
- How might this passage (and this Shepherd) help those who are feeling lonely?
- In what situation or circumstance do you currently need to remember the Lord as the Good Shepherd described here?

PRAY

- Spend time praying over the situations mentioned in the previous question. Close your prayer by reciting Psalm 23 out loud together as a group. (It will help to all be in the same Bible translation— this one is NLT.)

Psalm 23

A psalm of David.

- 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.*