

PSALM 23 PART 2 THE SHEPHERD GUIDE

READ Psalm 23 together

1. Begin by sharing anything that particularly struck you from Sunday's sermon from verses 3-4.

In verse 3 God is portrayed as the divine leader who leads us in 'paths of righteousness for His name's sake.'

2. What does David mean by 'paths of righteousness'?

Alec Motyer, author and bible scholar translates this verse:

'God directs us in ways which match His righteous nature and lead to His righteous goals.'

How is Jesus our example of righteousness? (see Col 1: 15, John 6: 38 and John 17: 4)

What do we know about God's paths? (see Psalm 25: 8-13)

If this is the case why do we sometimes stray?

3. What does David mean when he says that God guides us along paths of righteousness 'for the sake of His name'?
4. How can you most bring glory to God and enhance His name and reputation before others? Be as practical as you can, thinking of your daily walk and routines. What does it look like to walk righteously giving God glory in your home, work place, social places etc?
What steps can you take to keep on God's righteous path?
5. **David says: 'Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil.' What does he cite as the reason for this?**

'I will fear no evil' – Can you say this and mean it? Why or why not?

What might help us to trust God in difficult situations?

Think of the memory verse from Sunday (Josh 1: 9) and then see what encouragement the following verses give us: Isaiah 53: 3, Hebrews 7: 24-25, Phil 4: 5-7, 1 John 4: 18, Jeremiah 17: 7, Romans 5: 2-5 and Matt 28: 20.

Can you think of any times when you have been fearful and God has replaced that fear with His calm?

David has confidence in God. He speaks out positives about His divine presence and His ability to comfort and protect.

6. In some cases (not all by any means) God uses valleys to discipline us.
The shepherd's rod was used for protection of the sheep but also for correction.
How do you feel about this?
Read Hebrews 12: 10 – 11 and 2 Tim 3: 16
How can these verses give us encouragement even in these valleys?
To ponder Are you open to God direction and correction through the rod of His word?
7. **When the apostle Paul was facing death he was able to say 'For me to live is Christ and to die is gain.' (Phil 1: 21)**
Share what you feel about this.
8. **Jesus said: 'I give them (my sheep) eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.'**
Spend time praising God together for the glorious future we have to look forward to as His sheep.
9. Use some of the encouragements you have discussed to pray for people in the church you know who are going through valleys at the moment.