

# 11 OUR GOOD SHEPHERD

KEY TEXT: PSALM 23:1-6

## CENTRAL truth

Have you ever been in a situation that was scary and intimidating and found comfort in the presence of someone capable who cares deeply for you? If this is how we feel toward another human being, how much more comfort should we find in God's presence? Psalm 23 is arguably one of the most popular and well-known psalms in Scripture. As we study it this week, we'll be reminded that **the Lord is our Good Shepherd who cares for us.**

## key question

**What does the “darkest valley” symbolize? Why doesn't David fear it?**

Psalm 23 doesn't shy away from the reality of life's valleys. The description of the “darkest valley” implies danger. David can say he doesn't fear the danger because the Lord is with him. Though we experience danger and suffering, Psalm 23 reminds us that the Lord has not abandoned us—and He never will.

## keep in mind

- Students and adults alike may find it difficult to embrace what David says in verse 1: “I have what I need.” If we're honest, many of us feel the opposite way. Using the **Culture Note** in this week's session to assist you, help students to understand that David isn't saying we'll always get what we want or we should live complacently; Rather, we should trust the Lord as the great Provider and depend on Him to meet our truest needs.
- Amid the difficulties that students are experiencing, many of them may be tempted to believe the lie that the Lord has abandoned them. However, this psalm encourages to see that the presence of suffering or danger doesn't mean God is absent. He is with us, and we can rely on Him. As students open up about the difficulties they're experiencing, be quick to truly listen and follow-up when necessary.

## application

**Because the Lord is our Shepherd, we have all we need. Why is it difficult to remember this? How can we remind ourselves of this?**

## the win

**FOR THE STUDENT:** Students should be reminded that the Lord is our Good Shepherd who cares for us and is always with us.

**FOR THE LEADER:** Help students to see that the Lord is truly good and worthy of our praise, in both joyful and difficult moments. We can run to God as the One who meets our deepest needs.

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