

## Psalm 23

- <sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- <sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures.  
He leads me beside still waters.
- <sup>3</sup> He restores my soul.  
He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- <sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.
- <sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.
- <sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
forever.

## God Our Shepherd

Some places in the Bible, God describes His people as sheep and Himself as their Shepherd. Let's look at how the Great Shepherd provides for, comforts, and protects His sheep.

1. Read Psalm 23:1-6 and mark every reference to God with a triangle (*Lord, he, his, you, your*). Notice the pronoun shifts to *you* in v.4.

**Reflect:** What do you learn about the Lord? What does He do for His sheep? (Hint: Look for action words.)

2. Read Psalm 23:1-6 again and underline any reference to how the psalmist **responds** to the Shepherd. (See example in v.1).

**Reflect:** Based on what you underlined, what characteristics do you see in the life of the one who follows the Great Shepherd?

**Reflect:** Why is the psalmist able to respond in this way? What does this reveal about the relationship between the Shepherd and His sheep?

How does knowing God in this way encourage you to trust Him to provide for your needs? Where can you dwell for security and protection in the midst of your circumstances? What truths can you cling to as you walk through the valleys in your life?