

## Psalm 23

**Read:** Psalm 23:1-6

### **Summary:**

This Psalm is the best known in the book and probably the most well known verses in the whole of the Old Testament! It is real about life and yet also encourages us to go forward in faith and worship.

### *The Shepherd*

There are many descriptions of God (the rock, our King, our provider) but this picture is much more personal. The shepherd would lead the sheep; he would know them by name and understand what is best for each one. The shepherd was with the sheep literally 24-7; he would protect them in danger and remove thorns when they were hurt. Following the shepherd means we lack no good thing: There is no lack of security, no lack of guidance and no lack of provision. The Christian life is a journey and we follow Him.

### *The Host*

God the Host spreads a banquet for His guests, He anoints their head with oil and fills their cup to the brim! Goodness does not just follow us – it pursues us, like a policeman chasing us along the motorway.

In this Psalm we see again the covenant of God, the Bounty of the gospel that is for all nations, that following Jesus will involve hardship but we must choose to dwell in God's presence!

### **Application:**

Please select from the following questions. Encourage all to take part, to be honest and give time to pray for one another.

1. Was there anything shared on Sunday that needs clarifying?
2. What did God say to you and what are you going to do as a result?
3. In what ways have you found things tough following Jesus this year. How can we pray for you?
4. What have you learnt about God and yourself in the tough times?
5. What do you enjoy about God leading your life and in what ways do you want to go off and do your own thing?
6. Why doesn't God just give us everything we ask for?