

1. The Shepherd and His sheep

- a) The picture of the LORD as a Good Shepherd is a frequent theme throughout the Bible.
- b) Isaiah 40:11
- c) Jeremiah 23:3-4
- d) Ezekiel 34:12
- e) John 10:14-16
- f) What can we learn about the character of the Good Shepherd from these inspired testimonies?

2. A Scripture song about the Good Shepherd

- a) What testimony does the Psalmist David give about his Scripture songs? 2 Samuel 23:2
- b) Psalm 23:1 What good news do you hear in the opening words of this inspired Scripture song?
- c) What pleasant places does the Good Shepherd lead His sheep? Psalm 23:2-3
- d) Share a time when the Good Shepherd brought you to a pleasant place. How should we respond when the LORD leads us to pleasant places?

3. Dark valleys on the journey

- a) Psalm 23:4 Does the Good Shepherd deliberately lead His sheep through dark valleys or are the dark valleys an inevitable part of their journey?

- b) Share a time when the Good Shepherd was with you through a dark valley.
- c) What lessons might the Good Shepherd want us to learn when He is with us through a dark valley?
- d) What other passages of Scripture assure us of the LORD's presence when we pass through dark valleys of suffering and trial? Isaiah 43:1-2, John 16:33, etc.

4. Surrounded by enemies

- a) Psalm 23:5a Why would the Good Shepherd prepare a table for you in the presence of your enemies? Wouldn't it be preferable of the Good Shepherd to simply drive all your enemies away?
- b) Think of some enemies who have troubled you on your journey. What comfort do you find in these inspired words from the Psalmist David?
- c) How is it possible for us to go beyond tolerating our enemies and freely love them? Matthew 5:44

5. Additional blessings from the Good Shepherd

- a) Psalm 23:5b What picture or thought comes to your mind when you think of your head being anointed and your cup running over?
- b) Psalm 23:6 In spite of times of suffering and trial, what blessed assurance can we have when the Good Shepherd is leading us?
- c) How does the thought of your blessed destiny bring you encouragement in times of suffering and trial?

