

Psalm 23 - Week 3: My Shepherd the Protector

Leaders- remember this is just a guide- make it feel natural and not forced. The goal is not to get through the questions but to encourage deep and thought-provoking conversation. If you only get through 1 question but the conversation was deep and pointed towards Jesus, that's great. If you read them all and the conversation was deep and pointed towards Jesus, also great. The questions are discussion starters, they are not to be viewed as a checklist.

Opener(s)

1. Have you ever been sailing? What was that like? Winds strong or soft?
2. How did Pastor Mark compare sailing with life and why?
3. What sort of expectations do we have for life?
4. How do those expectations fit in with the unpredictability of life?

Read Psalm 23 (re-read verse 4)

1. What imagery do you see when you read these words? What is in this valley?
2. If comfortable, can you share a time you were in a valley of darkness?
3. What does it feel like to be in this valley? How do you normally navigate this valley?
How should you?
4. Why should we fear no evil? How much faith is required for this?
5. Name a time in your life where you knew God was truly with you? How did you know?
6. The Shepherd carries a rod and staff, for your protection and guidance. How does that look in your life? How has God been your protector and guide?

Read Mark 4:35-41

1. How do you see this story differently in light of Psalm 23?
2. What is the assurance of Jesus in verse 35? Is there one?
3. Where is Jesus and why is this important?
4. Where does Jesus show his power? And how is he the Good Shepherd in this instance?
5. How would you have handled this situation differently? Or would you have done the same?
6. Why does Jesus rebuke them for their faith?
7. What do you see in verse 41? The fear/reverence has changed from the storm to Jesus.

Speak encouragement into each other's life. Pray for specific issues/circumstances in the lives of your group members.

Pray together as a group for each other.

