



Overview

Where do I go from here? What new direction awaits? What is on the horizon as the days and years pass? These are not uncommon questions in life. While there is much we do not and cannot know about the days ahead, we know God has promised guidance for His people. His Word affirms that He has led, is leading, and will continue to lead. Beyond the precision and direction of a GPS, it is God's presence that becomes our confidence as we face the future. And just as sure as we are that He will be present in our lives and show us the way, we can be even more certain that the One who is guiding guides us for our good. Yes, each of us can rest securely in this most personal and peaceful promise ... "The *Good Shepherd* will guide me all the days of my life."

Going Deeper

Keeping in mind the idea that "God guides us for our good," read **Psalms 23:1** and discuss the significance of the following in light of the goodness of God:

- The LORD (Jehovah) as the Shepherd
- The word "my" in this verse ("my shepherd")
- The imagery of sheep and shepherds (see Psalm 95:7 and John 10:11)
 - Think about characteristics of sheep and duties of shepherds.
- The phrase, "I shall not want"

Making It Stick

Read **Psalms 23:1-3** and discuss it using these talking points.

God's guidance is:

- **Personal** – "My shepherd, I shall not want"
He made you and wants you to know *His* best in life. In times of trouble, this truth is difficult to grasp. Discuss the statement, "*God's way is the best way*," using the questions below:
 - Can you affirm this statement in your own life?
 - How would you explain this statement to a non-believer?
 - How would you explain this statement to someone going through a difficult time?
- **Peaceful** – "Green pastures, still waters, and a restored soul"
Explain the peace that comes from being guided by the Good Shepherd. (John 14:27, Philippians 4:6-8)
- **Practical** – "He leads me ..."
Discuss how you've witnessed the goodness of God as He leads you.
How do obedience and trust affect your destination? (Proverbs 3:5-6)
Are you a difficult "sheep" to lead (are you restless, clueless, defenseless, or aimless)?
- **Purposeful** – "In paths of righteousness for his name's sake ..."
According to verse 3, the righteous path is always the "best" path because God is always going to point us to that which exemplifies His character and nature. What tool has God given us to use as a GPS to help guide us? (Psalm 119:105, Joshua 1:8, Romans 15:4, Psalm 119:9-11, John 17:17)

The soul can do without everything except the word of God, without which none at all of its wants are provided for. — Martin Luther

Spend time talking about some of the ways you've experienced God's guidance recently. Has God given you specific verses of Scripture to guide you? If so, share them with your group.

Can you offer testimony to someone you know (a neighbor, co-worker, or friend) who is struggling to understand the care and goodness of the Shepherd by sharing your story? Will you share it?

Living It Out

Let this be your prayer this week ...

Psalm 23:1-3

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside still waters,

He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Jesus, You are my Shepherd, and because You are in my life, I want for nothing. You are my full and complete supply. Thank You for bringing me peace by causing me to rest and gain renewal and refreshment from Your Word and Your presence. Help me look to You for righteous paths. I am prone to wander. Don't allow me to stray and go my own way. Be gracious to me and come after me when I drift. Finally, help me be an example to others and point them to you for guidance in their own life. I pray this in the name of my Good Shepherd, Jesus, amen.