

ROCK SOLID: The God of the Psalms

"God Our Shepherd" Psalm 23 | July 31 – August 1, 2021

This provides about one hour of focused reading and discussion following the points of Mackenzie Matthew's message. Feel free to use the portions you find most helpful.

Take a moment to read **Psalm 23**. What actions (verbs) are associated with the shepherd?

1. He is a **personal** shepherd. | **Psalm 23:1a**

- This psalm is an expression of confidence in God, a declaration of the protective care of God, and a total dependence on Him. Share how you have experienced God's care, personally. Then, read **Luke 15:1-7**.
- When I am in need, what is my tendency - to run toward God, or run away from him?

2. He is a shepherd who **satisfies**. | **Psalm 23:1**

- How are contentment and complacency different?
- What needs to change for you to be more content?
- Let's discuss the idea of **need vs. want**. How does my view of what I am entitled to affect my level of contentment?

3. He is a shepherd who **restores** and **guides**. | **Psalm 23:2-3**

- Read **Psalm 16:7-8, Psalm 51:11-12, Psalm 143:10, Psalm 86:11, Proverbs 2:6, Isaiah 40:31, Jeremiah 17:14, Matthew 7:7**, and **James 1:5**.
- How do the ideas in these passages relate to Psalm 23?

4. He is a shepherd who **comforts** in the midst of threat. | **Psalm 23:4**

- How can we cultivate an awareness of God's presence within our situation?
- Talk about the practicality and the symbolism of the shepherd's rod and staff.

5. He is a shepherd who **protects** and **provides**. | **Psalm 23:5**

- Read **Psalm 35:1-2, Psalm 91:4, Luke 12:22-31**, and **Romans 8:35-39**.
- While we are in our troubles, what does the presence of God provide for us?
- On your own time, read Ruth 2-3 to see how protection and provision are demonstrated.

6. God our shepherd is faithfully **near**. | **Psalm 23:6**

- The psalm closes with this: Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever. Share an example of this from your own experience.

Close with a **prayer** and a theme-related **song**.

Lord, teach us to understand what we really need, and help us to treasure your presence.

"I Shall Not Want"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12NMGC5YjYY&list=RD12NMGC5YjYY&start_radio=1&rv=12NMGC5YjYY&t=0

"Shepherd"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xMxfBbr2FTM>

"Reckless Love"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sc6SSHuZvQE>

If you have a prayer need, ask a friend or two here to pray with you, and to support you in prayer this week.