

# The 23rd Psalm



COMFORT, REFUGE &  
STRENGTH FROM  
THE GREAT SHEPHERD

**SERMON STUDY - 3.16.2025**

## Leader Corner

Rod and Staff

Psalm 23:4

The "valley of the shadow of death" symbolizes the challenges, fears, and difficulties we face in life, including death itself. The psalmist expresses confidence that even in these dark moments, God's presence brings comfort and security. God is not distant during our struggles but is actively with us.

**Main Idea:** As a group - come up with the main idea for Psalm 23:4

**Main Scripture:** Psalm 23:4

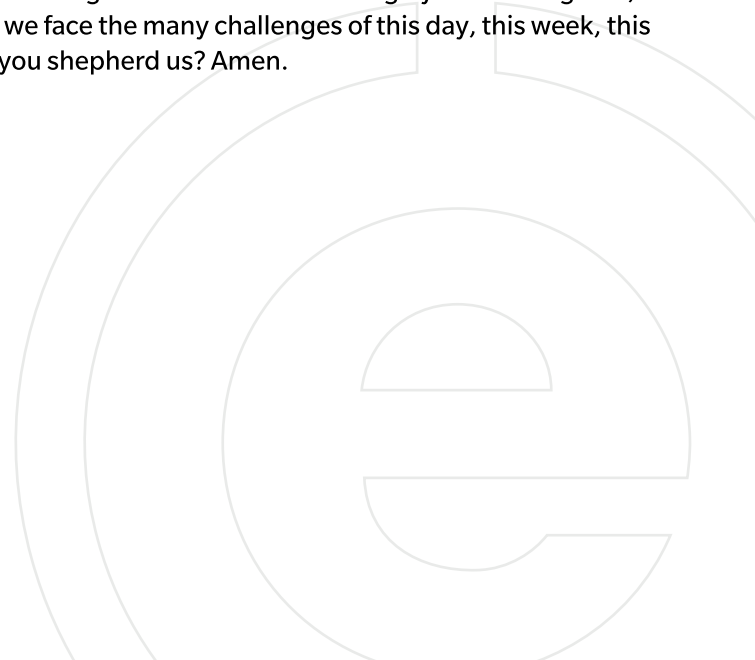
**Main Practice:** Sharing with others how Jesus specifically journeys with you in the struggles of life.

## Connect with Prayer & Praise

As a group listen to the song "Psalm 23."

Then, have someone read the following prayer:

"Jesus, we find life, health, strength, mercy, forgiveness. We have been forgiven and cleansed through you. Be our guide, our strength, our Savior, our Lord, our good Shepherd each day. As we face the many challenges of this day, this week, this journey in life, and as we face seemingly impossible moments, will you shepherd us? Amen.



## with Principle

1. Have someone read Psalm 23 out loud. In relation to Psalm 23:4 what reflections, thoughts, Biblical points do you remember from Sunday's sermon? What stood out to you?
2. What does the "valley of the shadow of death" mean to you personally? How do you interpret God's promise to be with you in those times?
3. In what ways have you experienced the comfort and protection of God's presence during difficult circumstances in your life? Can you share a story where you felt God's "rod and staff" guiding you?
4. How does the image of Christ as the Shepherd resonate with you? How does it change the way you view your relationship with Him?
5. Psalm 23 talks about fearlessness in the face of death and danger. What are some of the fears that you wrestle with, and how does the truth of God's presence help you face those fears?
6. How does 1 Peter 2:25, Isaiah 41:10-20, and Isaiah 43:1-4 speak to the heart and character of God as a shepherd?

## with Practice

Take some time and reflect upon a "valley of the shadow of death" type experience. What was it, how did it impact you, and how did Jesus show up in the midst of that moment or situation? Take some time to share that with your group. Then pray together for an opportunity to share this story in the coming week with someone else.

## for Further Study

Take some time to study the following passages and the surrounding contexts for each: John 10:11, Matthew 28:20, Psalm 46, 2 Corinthians 1:3-5, Hebrews 13:5-6, and Romans 8:38-39.