

## Small Group Study Questions:

### Opening Prayer:

- Read through the passage and highlight the main themes. Spend 10-15 minutes praying about those themes.

### Opening Question:

If you could choose any animal to be your personal guide through life, what would it be and why? How might this compare to having a shepherd?

### General Observation:

What stood out to you most from Psalm 23? Why do you think this psalm is so well-known and comforting, even to those unfamiliar with sheep farming?

### Understanding the Message:

Mark mentioned that "The Lord is my shepherd" is not just a title, but a name. How does understanding this as God's personal name (related to "I AM" in Exodus 3) change your perception of the psalm?

In the sermon, we learned that Jesus chose to call Himself the "Good Shepherd." Why do you think He selected this title over others like King, Master, or Teacher?

Mark explained four ways the Shepherd cares for us: making us lie down, leading us beside still waters, restoring our soul, and leading us in paths of righteousness. Which of these aspects of God's care resonates most with you right now?

### Personal Application:

The sermon mentioned that sheep won't lie down if they feel unsafe. In what areas of your life do you struggle to "lie down" and rest in God's care? How might trusting God as your shepherd help with this?

We heard that David changes from talking about God to talking to God in verse 4 of Psalm 23. How comfortable are you with addressing God directly in times of fear or trouble? What might help you grow in this area?

Mark said, "The closer we are to our shepherd, the safer we are and more of his peace will fill our hearts." What practical steps can you take this week to draw closer to God as your shepherd?

### Action Steps:

Choose one verse from Psalm 23 to meditate on each day this week. How might focusing on this psalm impact your daily life and perspective?

The sermon touched on our desires, fears, and future. Identify one area where you need to trust God more as your shepherd. What's one specific action you can take to demonstrate that trust?