<u>The Lord Is My Shepherd</u>

Psalm 23

Our loving shepherd cares for His sheep by bringing peace.

1. _____(v.1-3)

2. _____(v.4)

3. _____(v.5-6)

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT:

1. What analogies could you use to describe God and your relationship to him? What aspects of God's character would be drawn out by the various analogies? What aspects of the Lord being our shepherd do you feel helps bring greater understanding to a modern audience in southern Wisconsin? To avoid confusion, what aspects require greater explanation?

2. Observe the care that the shepherd displays in v.1-3. What are some specific examples of how that same kind of care shown to you as a believer? How is the Lord's care and leading wrapped up in His own reputation?

3. How would you describe the valley of the shadow of death or dark the darkest valley in your own life? What are the very real dangers that we, as Christians, face today?

4. In verse 4, David wrote, "I will fear no evil, for you are with me." Why would the presence of a shepherd help a sheep not to fear? How does the presence of Christ and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit impact how you respond to the "darkest valleys" in your own life?

5. How do we understand Jesus's role as the good shepherd, to claim us as one of his own sheep? How does the imagery of a shepherd help us better understand how we, as sinful people, are able to dwell in the house of the Lord forever?

6. How does this psalm help you to better see the mercy and love of the Lord? How does it help to drive away fear in your own life?