



### Sheep in A Jeep

Sheep in a jeep on a hill that's steep. Uh-Oh, the jeep won't go. The Sheep leap to push the jeep. The Sheep shove, the Sheep grunt. The Sheep don't think to look up front. The jeep goes crash! The jeep goes thud! The jeep goes deep in gooey mud. The Sheep tug. The Sheep shrug. The Sheep yelp. The Sheep get help and the jeep comes out. The Sheep shout. The Sheep yell, Oh Dear! The driver Sheep forgets to steer. The jeep's in a heap. The Sheep weep. The Sheep sweep the heap. Jeep for sale-Cheap!



## Studies in the Psalms

### PSALM 23

## THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

### QUICK REVIEW

#### LESSON ONE

- » We serve a God who understands us

#### LESSON TWO

- » We serve a God who takes care of us

#### LESSON THREE

- » We serve a God who wants to bless us

#### AUTHOR

According to its title, the author of Psalm 23 is David, the son of Jesse from Bethlehem. Although we cannot say for sure, it would seem very likely that this psalm was written in the later years of David's life. There is a clear and long line of shepherds in the lineage of David, so he would have been very knowledgeable on the subject he writes about in Psalm 23.

### ABOUT THIS PSALM

Psalms 22, 23, and 24 are all prophecies of the coming of Jesus. It has been said that a picture can paint a thousand words. Psalm 22 is a picture of Jesus as the Good Shepherd, Psalm 23 is a picture of Jesus as the Great Shepherd, and Psalm 24 is a picture of Jesus as the Chief Shepherd. Psalm 23 probably contains the most well known words in the entire Bible.

#### THEME

Psalm 23 is all about a shepherd and his relationship with his sheep. When you study sheep, you learn they are not exactly the smartest in the animal kingdom and need careful care and guidance. Although the human race is highly intelligent, we too, also need a lot of care and guidance in our lives. A baby is a great example of this--think how long it takes for a human to mature and reach an age when they can care for themselves. Most animal offspring do not take more than one year, while the human takes at least fifteen times longer.

David understood how much the sheep he tended needed his leadership. David writes of how he himself had come to understand that the relationship of his leadership to his sheep, very closely paralleled his need for the leadership of his God.

There are four main attributes of God's guidance over David's life that David writes about in Psalm 23:

1. **RESTORATION:** When you read about David's life you realize there were occasions when he himself needed great restoration in his life.
2. **GUIDANCE:** Many times David's diligently sought God's guidance for both his leadership of the kingdom and also in his personal life.
3. **PROTECTION:** Many of the psalms that David wrote declare how much he himself put his trust in God's protection over his life.
4. **COMFORT:** Again David's life was full of setbacks and difficulties. In each of these occasions David always received all that he needed from his great God, JEHOVAH.

# PERSONAL APPLICATIONS//PSALM 23

## THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

### QUESTIONS

Psalm 23 talks about living life with God. However, in our broken world, there is much to fear. As a child, how were you taught to deal with fear or stress?

**PSALM 23:1-2: “The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters.”**

### QUESTIONS

The shepherd provides rest and guidance to the sheep. What are some of the “green pastures” and “quiet waters” in your life? Do you voluntarily seek them out and spend time there? Why or why not?

**PSALM 23:3-4: “He refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for His name’s sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.”**

### QUESTIONS

What does “fearing no evil” mean to you? Do you find this easy or hard? What kinds of things do you find yourself doing when you are in need of comfort?

Can anyone share with the rest of the group a recent time, or a time the past when either from reading the Bible or by receiving Biblical counsel from a fellow believer, you received restoration, or guidance, or protection, or comfort in your life or for your family? Have a discussion about how important it is for us as believers to make ourselves available to fellow believers to help them just like we have been helped.

**PSALM 23:5-6: “You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely Your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.”**

### QUESTIONS

From this portion of scripture, what are the ways you see that God has promised to always bless His people? God does not promise to remove all the dangers or sadness of life. How, then, can we have peace and live without fear? Read John 16:33.

### CLOSING SCRIPTURES

- » Psalm 79:13: “So we Your people and the sheep of Your pasture will give thanks to You forever, to all generations we will tell of Your praise.”
- » Isaiah 40:11: “Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, in His arm He will gather the lambs and in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes.”
- » Luke 12:32: “Do not be afraid little flock, for Your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom.”
- » Hebrews 13:20: “Now the God of peace who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord.”