

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Psalm 23

Week 1: God Provides

Psalm 23:1

September 12, 2026

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Have you ever wondered why Psalm 23 is a beloved chapter in the Bible? Maybe it's because it gently invites us into a deep, loving friendship with God that has transformed millions of lives across the centuries. This week's focus on verse one shows us the way to a life without lack.

Kicking It Off:

We all know (or are) a hoarder. Without naming names, share the oddest thing this person won't let go of for fear of not having it should they ever need it.

Discussion:

1. In his sermon, Jeff summed up "true needs" as love, significance, guidance, protection and hope. Think of the last time you came up short on one of these – where did you turn to fill it?
2. Read Psalm 23:1. Would you be able to claim those two sentiments for yourself right now? Why or why not?
3. For contrast, read Exodus 16:1-3. Who is in this story, where are they, and what is happening?
4. What do the Israelites claim in verse 3 about their life in Egypt? What do they accuse Moses and Aaron of? What do you notice about both of these statements?

The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the Lord's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death." (Exodus 16:3, NIV)

5. What were the Israelites focused on? How did this affect their attitude and perspective?
6. Now read Psalm 23:1 again. What does David say *first*? What does this tell us about his focus? And what conclusion does he draw from this focus?
7. What captures your focus in a typical week? How might that be affecting your sense of lack? Jeff painted a picture of the Lord our Shepherd as One who is near, who is devoted to us, and who meets our needs. Which of those attributes could you lean into this week to sharpen your focus on the Lord?

Wrapping Up:

Encourage your group to take Jeff's challenge to memorize Psalm 23. Plan for how you'll be accountable to each other for this and share with each other any strategies for memorizing.

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." (John 10:11, NIV)