

PSALM 23

Memorize any portion (or all) of Psalm 23 that you choose. Said to_____

Read Psalm 23 five times. *Think* about it, *pray* about it, and *observe* it carefully.

Write down one observation from *each* reading.

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

1. In this psalm David pictures the Lord in two different ways. As what is the Lord pictured (one word):

a. in verses 1-4?

b. in verses 5 and 6?

2. Put verse 1 into your own words.

3. What relationship does verse 1 have to verses 2-4?

4. Notice the verbs or action words in verses 2-4. They tell *what* the shepherd does for the sheep. List the things he does from these verses.

5. What do green pastures and quiet waters symbolize to you?

6. How does the Lord bring *you* to "green pastures and quiet waters" today?

7. a. Psalm 19:7 tells one way that the Lord restores the soul. What is it?

b. Can you give an example of how you've found this to be true?

8. For a sheep, to be guided in paths of righteousness would mean to be guided in the right path. *What* does it mean to us and *how* does "for His name's sake" tie in? (Ezekiel 36:22-32 will stretch your understanding.)

9. How does the concept you see in question 8 make you feel?

10. If God is committed to being our guide (and He is) and to leading us in right paths (verse 3), *what does that tell us* about the times when we walk through dark shadows? (Does it mean we missed the road? Look carefully at verses 4 *and* 3.)

11. Even though we walk through dark valleys - the ultimate being death - *what* are we relieved of and *why*?

12. See if you can discover the purpose of a shepherd's:
- a. rod.

 - b. staff.
13. Why would God's use of these in *your* life be a comfort?
14. Notice that in dark times David shifts from speaking *about* God (the Lord, He, etc.) to speaking *to* God. (Thou art with me, verse 4.) We, too, need to personalize the principle in verse 4. *Write* a prayer telling God your particular dark time at present and *tie in* the concepts David uses at the end of verse 4. (You will *not* have to share this in class but please do it!)
15. What things does God *do* for the psalmist in verses 5 and 6?
16. Verse 4 suggests guidance through a threatening situation but verse 5 goes a step further and intimates triumph. The feast with its well-set table, festive oil (Psalm 104:15, Luke 7:46), and brimming cup would symbolize this triumph. *What* implications does this have for your life? (A good cross reference would be II Corinthians 12:9–10.)

17. In verse 6 we see the culmination of a journey. Where will it all end?
18. Why is house or home a good metaphor or picture? What does it suggest?
19. In verse 6, "follow" has the idea of "to pursue," and "lovingkindness" or "mercy" comes from the strong word for "covenant love." What additional insight does this give into this verse?
20. Who is the predominate force in this psalm? (Notice how the first and final lines serve as a frame for the other thoughts.)
21. As you consider Psalm 23 answer the following:
- a. Who is God?
 - b. Who am I?
 - c. In light of my observations I want to respond by: