

SUGGESTED VERSES FOR MEMORIZATION & MEDITATION

- The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. (Psalm 23:1)
- Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever. (Psalm 19:6)
- I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. (John 10:11)

READ VERSE 1 AND DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING

1. For being one of the most well known verses in the Bible, it is quite odd for two reasons. David calls God his shepherd, which was a less than ideal profession, and he calls himself a sheep, even though he is a king. What does this tell us about David's relationship with God (and our relationship with Him)?

READ VERSES 2-3 AND DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING

2. Twice David states that God leads him and once that God makes him lie down. Like a sheep to a shepherd, the king is acknowledging his utter dependence upon the LORD to lead and instruct him. Do you likewise understand your need for God's leading? In what ways has God led you or caused you to depend upon Him recently?

READ VERSE 4 AND DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING

3. David declares that he will not fear whenever death's shadow falls upon him because God is with Him. The very presence of God is all the comfort that David needed. In what ways do you take comfort in God's promise to be with us to the end of the age?

READ VERSE 5 AND DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING

4. Banquets were the epitome of ancient provision and hospitality; however, they were not often prepared for the guest in the midst

of his enemies. Still David claims that his head is anointed and his cup is full (two signs of a well made banquet). What does this verse tell us about David's faith in the LORD?

READ VERSE 6 AND DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING

5. David claims that goodness and mercy (or steadfast love) will follow him all the days of his life. He does not mean that they will casually follow him but that God's goodness and love will relentlessly pursue him all of his life. How are we able to believe that God's goodness and love follow us, even though we know that suffering and troubles still occur?

ACTIONS TO CONSIDER

- Read John 10 alongside Psalm 23. Make a list of connections between the two chapters, and how Jesus applies David's statements about the LORD to Himself.
- Consider David's confidence in God as his shepherd. In what areas of life are you fearful? Bring them before God in prayer, acknowledging His sovereignty, protection, and provision.