

Psalms of Summer
The Perfect Father
Psalm 23
June 16, 2019

Getting started...

The Lord shepherds us through pastures and valleys (vs. 1-4)

The Lord blesses us with His presence in the rigors of life (vs. 5-6)

How are you reminded of God's presence with you?

Thoughts for discussion...

What imagery or qualities come to mind when you think of a shepherd? Do you think "shepherd" accurately describes God?

Can you think of moments in your life when you were in need of refreshment or encouragement and God provided?

Does the psalmist believe that a good God would allow us to suffer (you may want to reread verse 4 of Psalm 23)? What reaction does that spark in you?

Reread Psalm 23:4b-6. What are some specific ways (in this verse) that God demonstrates His love even in the valleys of life?

Are there seasons of difficulty that you can look back on in hindsight and see how God used these to draw you closer to Him?

It may be that you are in the valley right now. Pray for a reassurance of God's presence and strength to lean on Him through your struggles. Pray that your dependence on God may be a witness to those around you.

Does picturing God as a loving Father help or hurt your view of Him? Explain or think through the reasons for your answer.

Psalm 23:6 tells us that God pursues us with "goodness and love". He will never abandon those who trust in Him. Does this alter your perspective of God? Explain.

What hope does verse 6 leave us with?

Pray that Calvary would live as a community that knows God's presence, and enjoys relationship with Him. Pray that our friends and neighbours would come to know our shepherding, loving Saviour.