

# GOAT



G R E A T E S T   O F   A L L   T I M E

A 6-WEEK STUDY GUIDE

7

**THE LORD  
IS MY  
SHEPHERD**

**Each session will begin with an opportunity to help you connect with and get to know one another. Since this may be your first time together (or since you may have new members), take a few minutes to make sure everyone knows each other.**

In your opinion, who has the most recognizable voice you have ever heard? Is it the voice of someone you know personally or of someone famous? What makes that voice so familiar?

**Play the “Session One: The Lord is My Shepherd” video lesson.**

What stood out to you from the video?

THE LORD IS MY

Shepherd

PSALM 23:1

I SHALL NOT WANT

**In the following section, you will explore Bible passages and take part in discussion to apply insights from this session. If time is a concern, please choose just a few questions to discuss in your group.**

**Read Psalm 23:1**

1. Share about someone from your life whom you would call a trustworthy person. What about their character makes them worthy of your trust? What would you say are the characteristics of a trustworthy person?

2. If you were writing your own version of Psalm 23, instead of a "shepherd," what would you say the Lord is like? The Lord is my ... what? How would you describe the kind of relationship you share with the Lord?

3. How does the Lord provide for the needs of those who love Him? How have you personally experienced God's provision? If one comes to mind, share an example of when the Lord provided for you in a surprising way.

**Read John 10:1-18**

4. In John 10:11-13, we are introduced to two characters: a good shepherd and a hired worker. What are the differences between them? What motivates their actions? What do those two characters represent?

**5.** Many times in these verses, Jesus promises to lay down his life on behalf of those who follow Him. How does Jesus' death and sacrifice lead us to trust in Him? Why do we need to sacrifice for others in order to build a relationship of trust with them?

**6.** Why must our relationship with the Lord begin with a sense of trust? How has God built a relationship of trust with you personally over time? If one comes to mind, share a moment from your life when God proved that you could trust Him.

## DEEPER STUDY QUESTIONS

### Read Hebrews 11:1-16

7. In Hebrews 11:4, the author writes about Abel—the second son of Adam and Eve, who was killed by his older brother Cain—and says that by his faith and trust in the Lord, he still speaks even though he is dead. How is this possibly true? How can our faith and trust in the Lord speak throughout generations, even after we have passed? How do you hope your personal faith outlives you?

8. The author declares in Hebrews 11:6 that having faith means that we believe God exists and that He rewards those who seek Him. Why are both of these truths necessary pieces of a faith that pleases God? Why must we continue to hold onto that faith to the point of death, even when we have not yet received what was promised?

## A MEDITATION FROM PSALM 23

**Each week during this series, we will provide a simple prayer and meditation exercise that you can use either in a group or on your own. Prayer and meditation are excellent resources for developing a relationship of trust with the Father, as well as ensuring we keep our focus on discovering a good life following Him.**

Begin this time by closing your eyes and spending a few moments in silence, focusing on nothing but the sound of your breath. When you find a moment of stillness, feel free to begin.

**1**

Read the words of Psalm 23:1, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." Repeat those words slowly in your mind. Spend a few moments meditating on the meaning of those words.

**2**

Imagine you are standing in a field, watching a shepherd gently guiding his flock. Pay attention to how the sheep trust him. Listen to the sound of his voice. Focus on what he is saying to the sheep. Visualize this picture for a few minutes and consider what it reveals to us about the Lord's character.

**3**

As you return from that picture, consider this simple prayer to the Father: "You are everything I need." Speak this line to the Father over and over, and reflect upon its meaning for you.

**4**

In order to end this prayer meditation, thank the Lord for the time you spent together and for everything He has provided for you. Thank the Lord for His generosity and His kindness. Thank Him for what He has given to you.

## JOURNAL

*During each week for this series, we will provide a simple prompt and an opportunity to write and journal your thoughts. As we pursue a good life of following God, we will find a great benefit from putting our thoughts into words and thinking through how we can put our words into action. Do not overthink anything you write or try to find a “perfect” answer. Simply write what comes to mind.*

Please spend at least 15 minutes writing about the question below:

Where am I currently putting my trust? If today I put my full trust in God and in His purpose for me, then what would change in my life?

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

***This is a place where you can write each other's prayer requests and make notes when God answers prayer. Pray for each other's requests out loud together as a group. If you're new to group prayer, you may pray silently.***

### **Prayer Requests**

### **Praise Reports**