

1. How has Psalm 23 been meaningful to you in the past? Can you describe a time or event in your life when it was particularly poignant?
2. Read Psalm 23:1. Who is the author of the Psalm? Why is it significant that he refers to the Lord as *his* shepherd? How does the shepherding role of the Lord extend to his sheep throughout the biblical narrative?
3. What are some of the unique needs of actual sheep and how do shepherds intervene in order to care for them?
4. Read Psalm 23:2. In what ways does the shepherd provide physically for his sheep? Why is it sometimes difficult for sheep to lie down in green pastures? Why is it difficult for us, sometimes, to find rest in God? What hope does v2 give us for finding that which we need for sustenance?
5. Read Psalm 23:3. In what ways does the shepherd work on behalf of the sheep in this verse? What's his motivation? Use some words to describe the paths of righteousness. How does the Lord restore our souls if we let him?
6. Take a few moments to prayerfully consider those things that you and sheep have in common. Read John 10:1-18 and ask God to help you hear and follow his voice and to let him lead you to those places where he can provide what is best for you. Finally, thank him for being the kind of God that lays down his life for his sheep, and for you!