

Crossway Life Group, Week of March 8

See sermon notes on [CMC's webpage](#) for background information

Community

Take time to share and pray for each other's concerns and joys.

Scripture: Psalm 23. Sermon: "God is our Shepherd"

Reading & Discussing Scripture

1. **Introduction.** What are things you sense are lacking from your life? It can range from not having enough time or money, to ability or strength, to knowledge or understanding, to relationships or community.
2. **Read Psalm 23. Now re-read verses 1-4.** The psalmist says, "The LORD is my shepherd." What is the significance to you of each one of those words?
3. In what sense do the sheep (that is, the people) of God lack nothing? Certainly there are times when we run out of money or strength or time. In what sense might the provision for the sheep be like the prayer Jesus taught us to pray: "Give us **today** our **daily** bread"?
4. **Re-read verses 5-6.** The psalmist describes God as our Banquet Host. Notice that everything in verses 5-6 is positive except 'in the present of my enemies'. In what sense might God provide for His people, even in the presence of trouble?
5. What is the difference between saying, "God is with us" and "You are with me"? In what sense are both of them valuable?
6. Do you have any other questions about the passage or the sermon?

The Big Idea

In all our troubles

God is with us today

protecting, providing, and loving us forever

Application & Reflection Questions

1. **Trust God in all troubles.** Sometimes, especially during troubled times, we are tempted to simply listen to and repeat the anxious words of our souls. How might you, by faith, learn to speak to (and not just listen to) your soul? What words from Psalm 23 or other passages does your soul need to hear?
2. **Bless others by being like God for them...protecting, providing, loving.** As you consider the people around you, who is it that God might be calling you to bless? This week, what can you provide for these people? How might you protect and love them?
3. **"The Lord is my Shepherd. I lack nothing."** In what sense is it true for you that you lack nothing because the LORD is your shepherd, even when you are very aware of things that you lack? A paraphrase of 2 Corinthians 12:10 says, "The less I have, the more I depend upon Jesus." How might our awareness of needs lead us to find a richer provision in relationship with Jesus?

Growing in Cultural Understanding

David wrote this poem out of his own cultural and life experience. He was a shepherd, so he understood the good work that shepherds do for the sheep who are so helpless. And he understood the joy and blessing of feasts, and the role that the host of the feast played in bringing blessing to all who came, and especially to the honored guests.

Given your own cultural contexts and life experiences, what images would you use to express the love, care, provision, and protection of God for His people? David, the poet, wrote a poem. How might you express this praise to God in a way that fits you? And what creative expressions by others of this praise to God have been meaningful for you?

Serving beyond ourselves

What are ways that your group can be for the benefit of people beyond yourselves?

Our Nominating Committee presented its nominees in church on Sunday. To watch the presentation, go to <https://vimeo.com/396439755> (password cmc). Please be **praying** as we anticipate the vote of affirmation after the worship service on March 29. You can learn more at <https://crosswaymchurch.org/members/nominating-committee/> (password cmc-family).

Psalm 23 (New International Version)

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures,

he leads me beside quiet waters,

³ he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths

for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk

through the darkest valley,^[a]

I will fear no evil,

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff,

they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely your goodness and love will follow me

all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD

forever.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (New International Version)

⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ¹⁰ That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.