



SDG Discussion Guide

Psalm 23

January 26, 2020

For Starters:

What brings you comfort?

Share about a time you felt God's presence. How did it make you feel?

Guidelines: The following is meant to provide an approach for further interaction with the respective sermon text *and surrounding passage*. Feel free to forward to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find this write up in print on that Sunday.

First, as you can, read aloud the selected passage in your group. If you have time, read it aloud a second time - from a different Bible translation. If you have time, read it aloud a third time - from an even different Bible translation.

Before you begin your discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the text together and prayed, what points and questions arise from your group? **Spend plenty of time in your group to address these points and questions.** Explore and see how God may give guidance in the discussion. The following are further questions you may use to guide your interaction with the text.

1. How would you describe the progression of imagery in this Psalm?
2. Why, do you think, did the Psalmist use shepherd/sheep imagery?
3. What are the strengths and weaknesses of this imagery?
4. What does this Psalm teach us about God?
5. What does this Psalm teach us about ourselves?
6. What is the difference between being promised a trouble-free life and being promised God's presence through the hard times?
7. Why is it important that God promises to be with us through the dark valleys of life?
8. If you feel comfortable, share about a dark valley you have walked through, or maybe even are currently walking through.
9. Rewrite this Psalm for yourself, using your own occupation as the source for the imagery.