



PRAYERS OF THE BIBLE

LESSON 11 PSALM 23

1. What was your takeaway from last week's study on **David's humble prayer** to his sovereign God, and how has this changed your own prayers?

DAVID'S SONG - MY SHEPHERD

David's life was turned upside-down when he was anointed king of Israel as a teen. This shepherd-boy-turned-king likely wrote this prayer song later in his life about what our Lord does for us "all the days of our life".

2. Pray as you read David's beloved **Psalm 23**. What stands out in his relationship with his Shepherd and how is your heart yearning for something similar?
3. a) David uses the metaphor of sheep and shepherd to describe his relationship with the Lord.
Read V1. Personalize and rewrite this first verse in your own words. Do you share the same assurance as David? Why or why not?

b) Who is the Shepherd? (See **John 10:11, 14-15**). Have you come under the Shepherd's care and become one of His sheep? Share your story.

4. a) **Read Psalm 23:2-3.** What is the role and responsibility of a shepherd, and how does the imagery in these verses describe what Jesus does for you personally? (See **John 10:2-4.**)
- b) To be at rest, sheep need to stay close to their shepherd. Where do you seek rest and refreshment? What does Jesus, our great Shepherd offer (**Matthew 11:28-30**)?
5. Notice the shift in **Psalm 23:4.** What happens, and how does David remain unafraid and confident?
6. Describe a “darkest valley” circumstance you are currently walking through or have walked through. What verse, phrase or image from this psalm encourages you and why?
7. **Read V5.** What do you find notable at the special meal depicted here, and what may the significance be of anointing the head with oil?
8. How does David view the future in **V6**, and what contrast do you see in light of **V4-5**? How can you have a similar confidence for your future despite a difficult present? (**See John 14:1-3**)

9. **Psalm 23** is David's prayer-song describing an intimate relationship with his Shepherd. What divine attributes of the Lord, woven through this psalm can you identify? Which of these resonates most for the area of greatest need in your life?

10. **HEART REFLECTION**

Meditate on **Psalm 34:19** "How abundant are the good things that you have stored up for those who fear you, that you bestow in the sight of all, on those who take refuge in you". In the space provided, write a prayer thanking your Shepherd for a specific way He has provided or cared for you all the days of your life.

NAME

PRAYER REQUEST