





A PSALM OF DAVID

- ¹ The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.
- ² He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams.
- ³ He renews my strength.

He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name.

⁴ Even when I walk

through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid,

for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff

protect and comfort me.

 ⁵ You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies.
You honor me by anointing my head with oil.

My cup overflows with blessings.

⁶ Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me

all the days of my life,

and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 23, this ancient song from the Bible, is one of the most-quoted and mostfamiliar passages of Scripture. It would have been familiar to Jesus, too! While we often hear it read at funerals, it meets us in our everyday lives, wherever we are, reminding us that God is with us and wants to guide us along our journey. As we begin a new year, let's carry this psalm with us, inviting us to let God, our Good Shepherd, <u>lead the way.</u>

Print out this resource and use it along with the Sunday morning teachings from the *Satisfied* series to help you connect with God, our Good Shepherd. All of the suggested spiritual practices are invitations, not obligations. Feel free to choose from them or add your own.

For service times and details, visit **www.wschurch.org.**

HERE ARE A FEW IDEAS FOR EVERYDAY WAYS TO CONNECT WITH GOD:

- Intentionally prioritize and participate in worship every Sunday and if you miss a message, you can find them on the **West Side app** or at **www.wschurch.org/watch.**
- Write out the verse for the week and put it somewhere you'll see it regularly. When you see it, pray the words slowly and then add your own simple prayer to it.
- Print or write out Psalm 23 and work on memorizing it this month. See how God brings the words of this chapter to your mind and heart at specific moments.
- Write your own option for an everyday way to connect with God:

QUESTIONS AND PROMPTS FOR REFLECTION:

- What are some of the things I want most in life? Can I be honest and name them?
- What do I want most from God?
- What am I afraid of?
- In what area of my life do I most need direction and guidance?

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The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need.

Psalm 23:1

- o Read John 10 & underline words or phrases that stand out.
- How is God prompting you to respond to his word this week?

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He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. He renews my strength.

Psalm 23:2-3

- o Set aside a block of time to rest this week even if it's short!
- o Read Matthew 11:25-30.
- How is God inviting you to respond to this week's message?

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He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name.

Psalm 23:3b

- o Read Luke 15:1-7 and Ezekiel 34:11-24.
- How is God leading you in this season of life? Pray a simple prayer asking God to show you the right path.

January

Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and staff protect and comfort me.

Psalm 23:4

- Name some of the valleys you've already walked through. Where was God? How did you sense him with you or experience his protection or comfort?
- What are some valleys that could be ahead in your life? What do you want to say to God about them?

You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings. Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever.

Psalm 23:5-6

THIS WEEK:

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- o List out some of the blessings that God has given to you.
- o Draw a picture or write a description of the verses in your own words.
- Take some time to read the whole of Psalm 23 and thank God for how he has used it in your life this month.

