

Ag-GROW-culture: Shepherds and Sheep LifeGroup Study

Today being father's day open with your favorite story about your father or a father figure in your life.

What do you think of when you think of a shepherd? Sheep?

Some of our greatest blessings come from the act of shepherding. Think of a time in your life you were lead by someone serving as shepherd.

What were some of the qualities of that person? How did you know you could trust him/her as your shepherd? And how can you instill that same trust between you and your sheep?

**The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
Psalm 23:1 ESV**

This verse reminds us who our real shepherd is. Why is it followed by the phrase, "I shall not want."? What does this say to you?

**He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.
Psalm 23:2 ESV**

We live in a society that never rests. Why does the word "makes" imply the same busy nature we live in today? Still waters means waters of rest. When there is so much to be done, why is rest so important?

**He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Psalm 23:3 ESV**

We see in this verse that He instructs us to rest for our sake. What are some examples in your life that rest has kept you from harm?

**Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
Psalm 23:4 ESV**

What is it about this verse that is comforting to you?

With evil and suffering all around us, how do we keep from fearing our own demise? As a group list at least 5 ways we can be strong for those who are suffering.

In Kelly's presentation, the rod and staff are explained. Share as a group how our Lord has used His rod and staff for our protection in our own lives.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Psalm 23:5 ESV

What do you think it means to have a table prepared in the presence of our enemies? Who is preparing the table? Why in the presence of our enemies?

"My cup overflows" implies what to you?

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

-Psalm 23:6 ESV

Trusting in verse 6's promise is often hard to remember. How can we encourage our "herd" that God is with us even when it seems He has left?

Take time to close in prayer.