

# GOD

## KNOWING

*selections from the*  
**PSALMS**

### **KNOWING GOD: PSALM 23**

*Mercy Church Community Group Guide*

#### **Announcements**

1) Mercy Volunteer Rally is Saturday January 28 from 9am-12pm at Levine. This will be a great opportunity to encourage one another and explore the ways we can serve one another. You can sign up here <https://mercycharlotte.wufoo.com/forms/mutabmm0rwjifs/>

This study guide is to help individuals and groups learn and apply the truths of Scripture to where you are in life right now. To get the most from this study guide, work through it on your own before gathering with your community group. If you aren't in a community group yet, consider attending the next Starting Point at Mercy Church. You can take the next steps to connect with a community group there. RSVP at [mercycharlotte.com](http://mercycharlotte.com).

**The beauty of Psalm 23 is the great reminder that we have the ultimate shepherd in Christ. The passage is not simply about our success or struggle, it is about the greatness of the ultimate Shepherd. As we know God more, we experience Him in many real and tangible ways. Just as a good shepherd cares for the needs of his sheep, hunger, fear, pests, and anger with others in the herd, Christ cares deeply for all aspects of our well-being.**

**Psalm 23, also, helps us gain a better understanding of God's promises and his great love for us. Since the Lord is truly the great shepherd, we do not lack anything. As our shepherd, God gives us rest (vs. 2), leads us in obedience (vs. 3), dwells with us, even in the darkest moments (vs. 4), always welcomes us to His table (vs. 5), and has an eternal plan to bring us to Himself (vs. 6). Knowing God is about resting in Him as our shepherd. When we rest in Him we look at the world differently. We no longer need to hope in things that cannot bring ultimate life. As the true shepherd, God calls for our attention, worship, and obedience. He wants us to be people that always turn to Him as the ultimate hope.**

## **REFLECTION**

- 1) What do people typically chase after the hardest?**
- 2) Where do you personally seek out contentment?**

## **BIBLE STUDY**

*The following questions will help you work through the passage.*

### **Read Psalm 23**

- 3) What does “the Lord is my shepherd” mean? How can understanding God’s role in your life change the way you navigate through with contentment?**
- 4) What other promises do you see from God to us in Psalm 23?**
- 5) How have you experienced one or more of these promises, either in a good or difficult season?**
- 6) These promises show us the provision of God for our daily lives. What is the promise of the gospel?**
- 7) In light of the great truth in Psalm 23, what is God calling you to do to draw nearer to Him?**

## **Prayer**

Prayer is an essential component of your life as a follower of Christ, and an integral part of any healthy church body. Psalm 23 is a great passage to pray through as a group. The following is a guide to help you pray verse by verse.

1. "The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing."

- The Good Shepherd knows his sheep by name
- Thank God for the ultimate blessing, knowing Him
- Pray for those who struggle to believe in God's goodness, and think they are forgotten.
- Pray that people would find contentment in God's provision

2. "He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,"

- Pray to experience the presence and peace of the Lord.

3. "He refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake."

- Pray for healing for struggling hearts
- Thank the Lord for His guidance and for our righteousness in Christ

4 "Even though I walk through the darkest valley I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."

- Praise the Lord for his constant presence (Matt.28:19,20)
- Ask God to reveal Himself (as He did in Exodus) during your darkest trials
- Rejoice in God's comfort

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

- Praise God for the Victory because of Christ's sacrifice
- Pray for gratitude toward God for inviting you to His table unconditionally

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.

- Thank the Lord for the specific ways He shows love and grace to us.
- Pray that others in the body would worship and dwell in His presence daily.