



I AM With You

September 10 & 11

READ Psalm 23

1. Over the next couple of months we'll be looking at passages that provide hope and stability when we are experiencing the valleys of life. Do you find it difficult to talk about your own valley experiences when you are in the midst of them? Why or why not? Has social media made this easier or more difficult?
2. What comfort is there in God being our Shepherd according to **Psalm 23**? What is the role of a shepherd?
3. In **verse 3** it says, "He refreshes (some translations say restores) my soul". What does that mean? Why is that important to remember on our journey in life especially when things are dry or mundane?
4. How can we be sure that God will be with us and will lead us according to this psalm?
5. Look up the following verses that show the significance of God's name. How do these verses help reinforce our understanding of **verse 3**?
Exodus 9:16 **Exodus 20:7**
Philippians 2:10 **Hebrews 6:13-15**
6. How would you encourage a brother or sister in Christ that is discouraged because they cannot feel the presence of God in their life?
7. The Christian life is not one of just wishful thinking. **Psalm 23** reveals that life is not just sunshine and rainbows, even with God leading us. There are times where we are led through dark valleys. Why is God's rod and staff a comfort to the psalmist? Why is that important for us to remember? If that is the role of the shepherd, what is our role?
8. What would you say is important for believers to understand when trying to walk beside another believer experiencing the valley? How do Job's friends serve as a cautionary tale?
9. Sometimes our valley experiences are longer than we would desire. It can be a tiring and discouraging time. What word is missing from **verse 4**, "Even though I walk _____ the darkest valley"? What difference does that word make?
10. What is the ultimate destination in following the Shepherd's leading according to **verse 6**? Read **Isaiah 25:6-9**. How should that future hope impact us now as we still face valleys?