

Bible Discussions in Times of Crisis

“Where Can I Find Security?”

Today's world is in a continual state of insecurity about its very existence. Environmental disasters, global diseases, economic turbulence, terrorist acts, political unrest, moral disintegration, fragmentation of families, and wars leave us feeling vulnerable.

This psalm (a sacred hymn or song) may be the most dearly loved chapter in the Bible. It is written by David, a major biblical figure who started out as a shepherd, taking care of his family's sheep, and ended up being Israel's king. In all kinds of challenging situations, people throughout history have found comfort in this psalm, and it speaks with amazing relevance today.

Icebreaker: How has the current crisis impacted you? What kinds of thoughts and feelings are stirred up in you?

Psalm 23

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.

Read Psalm 23:1-4

1. Sheep are noted for their defenselessness and instability. Based on this, what do sheep need?
2. What relationship does David have with the Lord? Consider how David's experience as a shepherd would have led him to this analogy.
3. What four specific things does the Lord do for him?
4. What does each mean in terms of your needs?
5. Note the change from *he* to *you* in verse 4. To whom does David now speak directly, and what do you think this indicates?
6. What's happening to David in verse 4 and why does he still feel secure?
7. The rod was an instrument of discipline, the staff was an instrument of guidance and rescue for the sheep. In what ways have you experienced God's discipline, guidance, or rescue?

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Read Psalm 23:5-6

8. What picture is drawn here?
9. What aspects of life are suggested by the things which the Lord provides so abundantly?
10. What do you think enables David to speak with such confidence regarding his future?
11. How does it impact you to know that God's *goodness and unfailing love will pursue* you all the days of your life?

Prayer

Close by sharing prayer requests and then pray for each other. Use the requests that were shared to finish the sentence:

“God, please help _____.”

Then read Psalm 23 again, all together. (If meeting online, have one person read out loud.)