

Scripture: Psalm 23; Matt 18:12-14; Luke 15:4-7; 1 Pete 2:25

OPEN:

1. On average, how many texts do you send or respond to each day? Is texting more of a convenience for you or an intrusion?

Read Psalm 23...any version

DIG:

1. What image or description stands out the most to you in the psalm, why?

Watch the video

2. According to this psalm, what are the attributes of your Good Shepherd? What does He promise to provide? How have you seen these traits in the way that Jesus leads you?
3. How do you feel about being compared to sheep (see also Matt 18:12-14; Luke 15:4-7; 1 Pete 2:25)? In what ways does this comparison ring true based on your life experiences? In what ways do you struggle to accept this comparison?
4. What are some of the "bad" shepherds in your life? Why is it so tempting to follow after them? In what ways are you tempted to be your own shepherd?

5. David didn't always get what he *wanted* every day of his life. But he never lacked what he *needed* any day of his life. How would you express the difference between the two?
6. What comes to mind when you imagine the Good Shepherd preparing a table for you in the presence of your enemies? What does your "battlefield" look like at the moment? Why is it important that your enemies are **present** but not **invited** to **sit** at your table?

REFLECT:

1. What practical habit or boundary would most help you guard the table of your mind this week—and what usually gets in the way of following through? How would your life be different today if you had consciously tried to "wear" Jesus Christ? What will you have to change to ensure a better fit?

**Matthew 18:12-13 NLT** "If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them wanders away, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others on the hills and go out to search for the one that is lost? And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he will rejoice over it more than over the ninety-nine that didn't wander away!"

**Luke 15:4, 6-7 NLT** "If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.' In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away!"

**1 Peter 2:25 NLT** "Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls."