

Digging Deeper

Thought Questions on Psalm 23

The world is a fearsome place. If we manage with the help of parents, teachers and friends to survive the dangers of infancy and childhood, we find ourselves launched in an adult world that is ringed with terror—accident, assault, disease, violence, conflicts. Prayer brings fear into focus and faces it. But prayer does more than bravely face fear, it affirms God's presence in it.

In the morning message I'll be celebrating what the LORD graciously provides us. But in the coming week, let's use these thought questions provided from LifeGuide Bible Studies to guide our praying this psalm. May we shine God's light on the dark shadows of fear that loom all around.

1. What are your recurring fears?
2. Read Psalm 23. This is a well-known psalm. It takes strenuous effort to see it in a fresh way. Is there anything here you have never noticed before?
3. Look carefully at the shepherd. How exactly does he care for his sheep (Psalm 23:1-4)?
4. How does the setting of Psalm 23:4 contrast with that of Psalm 23:1-3?
5. "I fear no evil" (Psalm 23:4) is a bold statement. What does it mean for you to say that?
6. How many times does the first person pronoun (I, me, my,) occur in this psalm?
7. Enemies are prominent in the psalm prayers and appear here. Who are your enemies? What forces oppose you?
8. What is the most comforting thing that you have experienced in the life of faith?
9. Psalm 23 is a weapon against fear. What fear in your life will you go to war against with this prayer as your cannon?
10. Pray! Name your fears and ask Christ the Shepherd to relieve them.

Reflecting on the Message

1. Why not meditate on each word of the first declaration: The. LORD. Is. My. Shepherd.
2. In the message we identified five truths. Which one/s especially comfort you in this season of your life?
3. How do you envision applying in practical ways the truths from Psalm 23 in your life this week?