

Small Group Questions

September 13, 2020

Series: Good God

Message: "Shepherds and Sheep"

This four week series will be based in Psalm 23. In light of many challenges faced this year, it can be easy to doubt the goodness of God. Psalm 23 serves as an antidote to numerous bad ideas about God. Each week, the message will examine a portion of the Psalm and apply the relevant understanding to the good nature of God.

(Questions to get everyone to participate)

1. What is your closest encounter with sheep? Do tell.
2. What self-help formulas were you raised with to cope with stress (eg. "forget it," "pray about it," "sleep on it," etc.? Did/does it work?

(Questions based on the primary texts)

Read Psalm 23.

3. Read the Psalm in the negative, putting "not" in front of every description of the LORD. What verse is the most disturbing to you? Why?
4. Theologians say God is transcendent (big) and imminent (close). Which of those aspects is the theme of Psalm 23? Transcendence, Imminence, or both?
5. Of those two aspects, which one is more difficult for you to grasp? Explain.
6. Why would David write this Psalm and picture himself as a sheep, which is not a great compliment?
7. "I'll be happy when _____." Why do we tend to fill the blank with circumstantial things versus eternal things?
8. What does it mean in John 10:10 when Jesus calls Himself the "Good Shepherd?"
9. What is one specific way you can follow the Good Shepherd this coming week?