

*The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Psalm 23:1-6 (NIV)*

## **Follow Me**

**Will you follow me to where I lead? Will you do what I ask of you? Will you allow me to take care of you? Before you answer, think deeply about the questions I have asked you. Can you think of how they are related? If you were to say no to these questions what would be the implications? What must you do if you will say yes to each of these three questions?** I do want you to take care of me. I know that you can take better care of me than I can take care of myself. If I want you to take care of me, I must give up control of my life to you. If I were to continue to try to live a self-reliant and self-sufficient life, I would be making a powerful statement about who would be taking care of my life. Such a statement would clearly indicate that I would be taking care of myself and would want or need no help from you. We both know how foolish and unwise such a decision would be. **How do you know how lacking wisdom and foolish it is to try to live without my help?** I have been there and done that, I have gone down that road. I have suffered the bruising and battering and brokenness of trying to live a self-reliant and self-sufficient life. But you rescued me from that life. Like a God Shepherd pursuing a lost sheep, you found me and brought me back to you. You made me lie down in green pastures, beside still waters, so you could revive and refresh and restore my soul. You healed the brokenness of my life. You have been and are now helping me to live a righteous life that is good and right and pleasing to you. You are allowing me to be a bold and bright witness for you in the world. Life has not always been easy since I started following you to where you led me to do what you asked of me. I have had many twists and turns and ups and downs in life. I have walked through some deep and dark valleys that seemed like they were in the shadow of death. But you have always been with me. You have cared for me. You have comforted me. You have protected me. Your goodness has followed me every day of life. And yet, I know that the very best is yet to come. One day, I will come to live forever with you in heaven. So now, it will be my pleasure and joy to follow you to wherever you lead me to do whatever you ask of me. **That will be very good.** Thank you, Lord.

*Lord, I know, without a doubt, that you are with me as I take every step in life. You are my Good Shepherd. You take care of my needs. You are with me to help me. You revive and refresh and restore me. You comfort and protect me. I will follow you. Amen*

## The Sacramental Life

*You Are With Me*

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

NIV

Psalm 23:1-6

## The Sacramental Life

*You Are With Me*

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

ESV

Psalm 23:1-6

## The Sacramental Life

*You Are Close Beside Me*

The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need. He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name. 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. 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. 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.

NLT

Psalm 23:1-6

## The Sacramental Life

*You Are With Me*

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

NKJV

Psalm 23:1-6

## The Sacramental Life

*You Are With Me*

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

NRSV

Psalm 23:1-6

## The Sacramental Life

*You Walk At My Side*

A David psalm GOD, my shepherd! I don't need a thing. You have bedded me down in lush meadows, you find me quiet pools to drink from. True to your word, you let me catch my breath and send me in the right direction. Even when the way goes through Death Valley, I'm not afraid when you walk at my side. Your trusty shepherd's crook makes me feel secure. You serve me a six-course dinner right in front of my enemies. You revive my drooping head; my cup brims with blessing. Your beauty and love chase after me every day of my life. I'm back home in the house of GOD for the rest of my life.

MSG

Psalm 23:1-6

## The Sacramental Life

*You Are With Me*

THE LORD is my Shepherd [to feed, guide, and shield me], I shall not lack. He makes me lie down in [fresh, tender] green pastures; He leads me beside the still and restful waters. He refreshes and restores my life (my self); He leads me in the paths of righteousness [uprightness and right standing with Him—not for my earning it, but] for His name's sake. Yes, though I walk through the [deep, sunless] valley of the shadow of death, I will fear or dread no evil, for You are with me; Your rod [to protect] and Your staff [to guide], they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my [brimming] cup runs over. Surely or only goodness, mercy, and unfailing love shall follow me all the days of my life, and through the length of my days the house of the Lord [and His presence] shall be my dwelling place.

AMP

Psalm 23:1-6

## The Sacramental Life

*You Are Close Beside Me*

Because the Lord is my Shepherd, I have everything I need! He lets me rest in the meadow grass and leads me beside the quiet streams. He gives me new strength. He helps me do what honors him the most. Even when walking through the dark valley of death I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me, guarding, guiding all the way. You provide delicious food for me in the presence of my enemies. You have welcomed me as your guest; blessings overflow! Your goodness and unfailing kindness shall be with me all of my life, and afterwards I will live with you forever in your home.

TLB

Psalm 23:1-6

## The Sacramental Life

*You Are With Me*

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows. Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

NASB

Psalm 23:1-6

## The Sacramental Life

*You Are With Me*

A psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd; I have everything I need. He lets me rest in green pastures. He leads me to calm water. He gives me new strength. He leads me on paths that are right for the good of his name. Even if I walk through a very dark valley, I will not be afraid, because you are with me. Your rod and your walking stick comfort me. You prepare a meal for me in front of my enemies. You pour oil on my head; you fill my cup to overflowing. Surely your goodness and love will be with me all my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever.

NCV

Psalm 23:1-6

# You Are With Me

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Week \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**The Sacramental Life** – Psalm 23:1-6

**In Context:** *Read Psalm 23*

**Begin With Prayer:**

***Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.***

**Meditating On God's Word:** ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Psalm 23:1-6 (NIV)

**Considering The Words:** ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

The LORD is my shepherd, | I shall not be in want. | He makes me lie down | in green pastures, | he leads me beside quiet waters, | he restores my soul. | He guides me in paths of righteousness | for his name's sake. | Even though | I walk through the valley | of the shadow of death, | I will fear no evil, | for you are with me; | your rod and your staff, | they comfort me. | You prepare a table before me | in the presence of my enemies. | You anoint my head with oil; | my cup overflows. | Surely goodness and love | will follow me | all the days of my life, | and I will dwell | in the house of the LORD forever. Psalm 23:1-6 (NIV)

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**Praying The Scripture:** ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I know, without a doubt, that you are with me as I take every step in life. You are my Good Shepherd. You take care of my needs. You are with me to help me. You revive and refresh and restore me. You comfort and protect me. I will follow you. Amen

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**What It Means:** ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

When have you known that the Lord was like a shepherd to you taking care of your needs?

**When has the Lord made you lie down, in green pasture like circumstances, to rest in His presence?**

How has the Lord brought you to quiet places, away from busyness, so you be refreshed by Him?

**Why must you withdraw from the noise and busyness of life if you want the Lord to restore your soul?**

How has the Lord kept you from being afraid, and comforted you, as you have gone through dark valleys in life?

How sure are you that the goodness of the Lord will follow you all the days of your life?

**What do you have to look forward to once your brief life in this world comes to and end?**

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**Living It Out:** ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Follow the Lord to where He leads you because He knows how to take care of you.

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**Seeing It Happen:** ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord is with you to help you and will take care of you as you follow Him.

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**Get Ready To Share:** ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how the Lord has been with you to help you through life.

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**Close With Prayer:**

*Pause And Offer Prayers Of...*

***Quiet Yourself Before The Lord***

*With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You*

Adoration... \_\_\_\_\_

Thanksgiving... \_\_\_\_\_

Confession... \_\_\_\_\_

Intercession... \_\_\_\_\_

Petition... \_\_\_\_\_

**Journal**

*As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord*

**What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?**

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**What Prayers Are You Praying Today?**

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**Prayer Of Blessing**

*(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)*

*May you follow the Lord to where He leads you.*

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**Prayer To Carry**

*(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)*

*Lord, I will follow you to where you lead me.*

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**What Do You Want To Remember About Today?**

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**A Question To Ask God**

*(What Would You Like To Ask God?)*

*Lord, where are you leading me now?*

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