

Questions for Life Groups

On Psalm 23

(28/11/21)

Chris reminded us that this prayer is about 3000 yrs. old and is well known around the world and has often been learned by heart. In the Hebrew it contains just 55 words divided in to THREE distinct parts

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
² He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
³ he refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.
⁴ Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
⁶ Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.

The first part (v1-4a) Describe God as He, the middle section of V4 (b) is the transition point. The heart of the prayer. The final part (v4c-6) describes God as you. A Shift has happened in David's understanding as he realises his relationship with God changes everything.

1. Read the prayer together, perhaps a couple of times in different versions.
2. Look at V1-4a reflect on some of the qualities and characteristics and actions of God that David describes.
3. How would you describe the role of a shepherd? Does it describe how God cares for his people?
4. How would you respond to someone whose experience of God is not like David describes in the Psalm? Can you recall what Chris said?
5. Chris explained that the idea of refreshing the soul was actually about "bringing back" to the correct place/path. How does this link with the Gospel?
6. Can you share any experiences where God has "refreshed" your soul?
7. What has been your darkest valley? Did you feel God walking with you?
8. When you walk with God and allow him to lead you, what does God do for you? (v5-6) What does this mean for you personally?
9. God doesn't just follow us; he tracks us down and seeks us out. Is that your experience?
10. When you lock your door and shut the curtains, it can make you feel secure and safe. Look at the last line. How does that make you feel?