

Small group optional guide: Psalm 23 The Lord is in control

## **UP; we grow in our love for Jesus through His word and worship**

**WORSHIP:** Holy forever / Same God / Thousand Hallelujahs / Freely you gave / You are worthy of it all / Psalm 23 - The Lords my Shepherd by Stuart Townend

### **WORD: Psalm 23:**

Q) Who's got me? I could say that God has got me because I believe it, but my life doesn't always demonstrate that belief.

Q) Who's got my happiness, my safety, my health, my finances?

Q) Who's got my loved ones?

This psalm is clear that God has got me - and He has got you too if you believe in Jesus.

### **v1 The Lord is my shepherd**

➤ focussed on who He is - God's character **I shall not want** (or I lack nothing); is focused on what He does for me

**V2-3 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul.**

➤ This is about us being saved by Jesus so that we can be fully satisfied and wholly delighted in our God, secure, free, joyful

**V4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me.**

➤ He walks us through the valley of the shadow of death and protects us, He leads us through

**V5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.** Jesus, when he took the cup of wine and broke the bread to symbolise Him being the perfect sacrifice as the Passover lamb - the full price paid for our sins - He did so in the presence of His enemies.

### Word continued...

**Conclusion:** The Great I AM, the God who self sustains, is independent of my circumstances, relies on nothing and no one for His existence and power, has proven His faithfulness again and again; He creates, exiles, rescues, delivers, guides, provides for, and dwells with us in ever increasing waves which culminated in the first coming of Jesus, his death and resurrection and will complete in the second coming and the restoration of all that was lost in Eden as a new heaven and earth are created .....

This God - The Lord our shepherd - is in control.

### **IN; we connect and learn to love one another**

Talk and pray through these questions from Sunday:

Q) how did you answer the question: who's got you? who's got your happiness, my safety, my health, my finances

Who's got your loved ones?

Q) do you see God, your shepherd, Jesus - as in control, trustworthy, faithful ?

Q) Are you willing to give him control? what is the Holy Spirit prompting you to do?

(would this mean saying that you trust Him, putting your jenga towers at the cross, repenting for trying to be god, receiving His healing for painful things you have experienced / are experiencing? )

### **OUT: we look to pray, witness and serve**

1) What small group evening or weekend will we invite our friends/neighbours to?

➤ Pick one and plan it

2) How is our small group over 65s pastoral care going? Have we managed a monthly contact? (phone call, card, visit)