

GRACE POINT

Life Without Lack

Psalm 23

1. Have someone in the group read aloud Psalm 23.
2. Choose a phrase or verse that captures the point of the passage or one that speaks directly to you? What is God's personal invitation to you from the Scripture?
3. To which picture or image of God do you relate best? (Father, Spirit, Shepherd, Rock, etc.) To which do you least relate?
4. Is there anything that you feel is truly lacking in your life? What do you need from your heavenly Father?
5. What people, places, activities refresh your soul? What people, places, or activities merely give you temporary relief? If possible, make a list and prioritize those things that refresh your soul.
6. How do we find comfort when we (or someone we care about) is going through a deep, dark valley?
7. David discovered that God is not only a Good Shepherd, but an incredible dinner Host. Who can you invite to share a meal with over the next few weeks? If possible, have your small group host a meal and invite a few guests to join you.

MOVING FORWARD

Psalm 23 begins with an audacious claim: "The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing." Life without lack? You might question that. Our lives are full of lack - lack of time, lack of resources, lack of energy, lack of opportunity, you name it...

It seems David is not living in the real world, but in some other world made from his imagination. Actually, Dallas Willard says, "He is living in the most real world, a world where Yahweh is present and available and actively involved in the lives of those who know and trust him" (Life Without Lack, p.24). This kind of life is found in the kingdom of God and is available and open to all who are in Christ.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

I don't say this out of need, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I find myself. I know both how to make do with little, and I know how to make do with a lot. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being content - whether well fed or hungry, whether in abundance or in need. I am able to do all things through him who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:11-13