Group Discussion Questions
The Truth About Lies: Where He Leads

We all face valleys: conflict, failure, grief, fear, and circumstances we never expected. When life feels uncertain, our natural response can be to grab for control. But underneath that desire is often a deeper lie: **If I don't stay in control, everything will fall apart.** ***Psalm 23*** gives us a different picture. We have a Good Shepherd who leads us, stays with us, restores us, and gives us what we need. As Jennie Allen reminds us (pg. 65), ***"You were never meant to be in control. But Jesus is, and He is good."*** Sheep don't control. **Sheep follow.**

GET THINGS STARTED

1. From Chapter 5, *The Lie Beneath the Lie*, what stood out to you most? Why?
2. Are you naturally more of a planner or a "we'll figure it out when we get there" person? How does that affect the way you respond to the unexpected?
3. What kinds of situations make people most likely to grab for control?

GO DEEPER

1. Read ***Psalm 23:1-4***. List everything the Shepherd does and everything the sheep does. What does this teach us about our relationship with God?
2. ***Psalm 23:4*** doesn't say we will avoid every valley. What does God promise us **in** the valley? How is that different from promising us an easy life?
3. Read ***Matthew 10:17-19***. Jesus doesn't promise His followers that they will never face more than they can handle. What does He promise instead?
4. Read ***Romans 8:31-32***. When we struggle to trust God, how does the cross remind us of His goodness and care for us?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Where are you most tempted to move from wise planning into **trying to control** the outcome?
2. Which valley best describes something you are facing right now: conflict, failure, grief, fear, opposition, or something else? What would following Jesus in that valley look like?
3. Jennie writes (pg. 69) that when we are hurting, we can take a wound and *"build a whole identity around it."* Has something that happened to you ever affected what you believe about yourself, others, or God?
4. What might be the **"lie beneath the lie"** for you (pg. 64)? Could a deeper belief like *"I'm on my own," "I have to protect myself,"* or *"I can't trust God with this"* be driving another struggle?

PRACTICE IT NOW

- Open your hands as a picture of releasing control. Quietly ask: ***"Jesus, what am I trying to control that You are asking me to trust You with?"***
- Then ask: ***"God, what do You say is true about me?"*** Pause and listen. If needed, read ***Romans 8:31-39*** together.
- Share one area you want to release to the Shepherd. Pray for one another, for fresh grace in today's valley and faith to trust wherever He leads.

We don't have to know what every valley holds
when we know the Shepherd who walks with us.