

THE GREAT COMFORT

PSALM 23



- 1. The Lord has been a _____ to me.** *The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. v. 1*
- 2. He gives me _____ .** *He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters. v. 2*
- 3. He _____ my soul.** *He restores my soul. v. 3a*
- 4. He _____ me in the right way.** *He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. v. 3b*
- 5. He _____ me.** *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. v. 4*
- 6. He _____ for me.** *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows. v. 5*

The Good Shepherd takes good care of His sheep.

THE APPLICATION

How is life going for you?

PSALM 27:8 (NLT):

***My heart has heard you say, "Come and talk with me."
And my heart responds, "Lord, I am coming."***

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. v. 6*

1. Along with John 3:16 and the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13), one of the most famous passages in the Bible is Psalm 23. Why is it so well known and popular, even with the unbeliever who can't know the Lord as their shepherd?

2. What significance does this psalm have in your life? Do you have a certain memory or life event connected to it?

"During those longer periods of enforced reflection it became so much easier to separate the important from the trivial, the worthwhile from the waste. For example, in the past, I usually worked or played hard on Sundays and had no time for church. For years Phyllis had encouraged me to join the family at church. She never nagged or scolded she just kept hoping. But I was too busy, too preoccupied, to spend one or two short hours a week thinking about the really important things. Now the sights and sounds and smells of death were all round me. My hunger for spiritual food soon outdid my hunger for a steak. Now I wanted to know about that part of me that will never die. Now I wanted to talk about God and Christ and the church. But in Heartbreak solitary confinement, there was no pastor, no Sunday School teacher, no Bible, no hymnbook, no community of believers to guide and sustain me. I had completely neglected the spiritual dimension of my life. It took prison to show me how empty life is without God."

*Howard Rutledge,
In the Presence of Mine Enemies,
1965-1973: A Prisoner of War*

3. Which of the six attributes of the Lord from the sermon notes have you reflected on the most? Why? What additional attributes do you find in this psalm? What would you say about the Shepherd if you were to write a psalm about Him?

4. How do the different parts of this psalm represent different seasons of life?

5. The tone of this psalm suggests a writer who is content with the shepherd's gracious provision. Are you a contented sheep in God's pasture, walking daily in the conscious joy of all the spiritual riches that are yours in Christ, or does lack of contentment cause you to grumble and complain? What help does this psalm give you?

6. In light of how God has treated you as your Shepherd, how can this psalm help you respond in love to those with whom you interact?

Close with prayer to your Shepherd.

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week. Like to plan ahead a little more? Pick up a copy of *The Source* at a stand around campus or near the exits, or visit www.cbcfamily.org/events. They're your source for everything going on at Christ Chapel.

GET YOUR CANTATA RESERVATION

REMINDERS TODAY! This year's Christmas Cantata, "Sing Christmas" tells the story of Christ's birth through spectacular music performed by the Cantata Choir, Sanctuary Orchestra and children's choirs. Get your Reservation Reminders today in the Great Room or Atrium and then invite your family, friends and co-workers to join you on Saturday, Dec. 1 or Sunday, Dec. 2.

PICK UP OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD BOXES

TODAY. Let's spread the joy of Jesus to children around the world this Christmas! Directions are provided and boxes are due back by next Sunday, Nov. 18. Want to volunteer and help collect boxes? Sign up at www.cbcfamily.org/events.

MONDAY MORNING MOTIVATOR STARTS

TOMORROW! We're kicking off a new weekly training all about sharing the gospel. For tips and insight on how to start those conversations with the people in your life, download the Christ Chapel App. We'll send you the videos through the app (which is available for download in the App Store and on Google Play)—just make sure you've turned on your notifications!

SPECIAL NEEDS FAMILIES, BREAKAWAY IS

THIS FRIDAY, NOV. 16. Breakaway is a monthly get-together where kids and young adults with special needs have fun while parents get a few hours to themselves. RSVP to Emma at EmmaW@christchapelbc.org by this Wednesday, Nov. 14.

SINGLE MOMS, COME TO OASIS THIS FRIDAY,

NOV. 16. Join us at 7 p.m. in The Den for great food, friendship and a calligraphy workshop! To RSVP for yourself, email Kristin at KristinH@christchapelbc.org. RSVP for Kids Care, available for ages 0 to 11, at www.cbcfamily.org/KidsRSVP.

"SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS" IS THIS SATURDAY,

NOV. 17. We know the holiday season is hard to navigate after losing a loved one. That's why we want to help you prepare at Surviving the Holidays. We'll talk about the surprising emotions you may encounter, what to do with favorite traditions and where to find the comfort and hope you need. Register today at www.cbcfamily.org.

YOU'RE INVITED TO NEXT SUNDAY'S TA ETHNE

MISSIONS LUNCHEON. Join us on International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church and hear from pastors who live and work in a country hostile to Christianity. The lunch starts at 12:15 p.m. in the Oak Room. RSVP for Kids Care, available for kids 11 and under, at www.cbcfamily.org/KidsRSVP by this Wednesday, Nov. 14.

LET OUR ELDERS PRAY FOR YOU NEXT SUNDAY,

NOV. 18. If you're carrying a heavy burden, are ill or need encouragement, our Elders and their wives would love to pray with you in the Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m.

BUY WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS BRUNCH TICKETS.

Ladies, share the gospel with a friend by bringing her with you to brunch on Saturday, Dec. 1. The brunch, happening at 10 a.m. at Will Rogers Round Up Inn, includes friends, spectacular decor and a message that points us to Jesus. Buy your tickets, \$20 each, at www.cbcfamily.org/events. If you'd like to decorate a table, email Ellen at EllenS@christchapelbc.org.