

## God's Promise of Care: *The Lord is my Shepherd*

It is sometimes difficult for modern man to understand the relationship between a shepherd and his flock. Few of us in urban America are familiar with livestock and what a shepherd is and how they obtain, nurture, shelter, guide, protect, and provide for a large group of absolutely helpless creatures. And it is far beyond our ability to understand the challenges faced in Biblical times, when there were none of the modern conveniences and developments available today. Yet it is essential that we take all of this into consideration to more fully understand Psalm 23. We need to be able to put ourselves in the place of young David as he sat in the hills of Judea and Samaria.

Take a moment and think about David's position as shepherd. How did David acquire his flock? What was his relationship to them? What were his responsibilities toward them; what does a shepherd do? How did he react when one was missing? How might he have felt when one was lost to a predator? With whom would he have shared his thoughts and feelings?

Keep these things in mind as you work through the questions below.

**Study Questions** – *begin with prayer and ask God to open your heart and mind. Be honest with yourself and with God. There are no right or wrong answers.*

Read: Numbers 27:16-17, Isaiah 40:10-11, Jeremiah 31: 8-10, Ezekiel 34: 5-6 and 11-15

1. What are the actions and activities of a shepherd?
2. Who is the shepherd in your life and how do they shepherd you?
3. How would you define your relationship with God in one simple sentence?
4. Based on that relationship, how does God see you? What are His expectations of you?



13. How do we limit God?

14. Give examples of how you try to "have it both ways" with God.

15. What relationship would you like to have with God?

16. What will you do this week to develop that type of relationship?