

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further ***International Bible Lessons***

Psalms 23:1-6
Sunday, April 2, 2017
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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. If you say the Lord Jesus Christ is your Shepherd, how should you behave?

I should follow Him and do what He says. I should trust Him and the Word He has spoken, the Bible. “Jesus replied, ‘Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My

Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me” (John 14:23-24).

2. Why does the Shepherd guide you in right paths?

As one who claims to be a follower of Jesus, Jesus guides me for His Name’s sake so I will glorify and honor God rather than disobey and disgrace God. Jesus will never guide me into a path of disobedience to the Bible. Jesus will lead me according to God’s holy and loving standards, the right path. If I stray off the right path, I will dishonor Jesus’ Name.

3. Explain why you need not fear evil when you are following Jesus.

When He is close to me and I am close to Him as the Bible teaches, I will be obeying Him, even though I may be suffering for His Name’s sake or while being pruned by God. I will not need to be afraid that I will be spiritually overcome or defeated by the devil, because His rod and staff will comfort me. The Bible says: “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: ‘For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered’”

(Romans 8:35-36).

4. Why do the Shepherd's rod and staff comfort you?

The Shepherd has all the tools He needs to protect me from spiritual dangers and enemies, and rescue me when I stray and fall. He will preserve me and help me persevere as one of His sheep to the end, until He brings me into His house.

5. If you follow Jesus, what will follow you all the days of your life?

God's goodness, mercy, and love, which even today give me a foretaste of life in His eternal home.

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