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Our Relationship with the Shepherd

I. THE RELATIONSHIP IS BENEFICIAL Psalm 23:1-3

- Use the dictionary to define “shepherd.” Does your relationship with the Lord match that definition?
- From verses 1-3, name at least five benefits to having the Lord as your Shepherd.
- Match each benefit with one or more of the following verses: Matthew 6:28-33; Matthew 11:29-30; Mark 6:31; Isaiah 32:17-18; Zephaniah 3:17; Job 33:26; Psalm 19:7; Psalm 35:9; Isaiah 48:17; John 10:3; Psalm 25:9; Psalm 107:28-31
- Give the phrase that indicates why these benefits are critically important.
- Which benefit is most meaningful to you?

II. THE RELATIONSHIP IS PERSONAL Psalm 23:4-5

- What difference is there between the pronouns in verses 1-3 and verses 4-6?
- What do you think caused the change? What could it mean?
- Have you ever found yourself in a valley? What was it? Describe the difference it made in your relationship with the Lord.
- When in a valley of disease, death, divorce, depression, etc., are you tempted to think you are not on the right path? What was the Psalmist’s experience?
- When Jesus was led into the wilderness, give the phrase from Matthew 4:1 that indicates He was on the right path.
- What is the secret to peace in the valley? See Isaiah 43:2; Exodus 33:14; John 14:27; John 16:33
- When facing opposition, hostility, or persecution, which of the following promises will you claim? Psalm 3:5-6; Psalm 91:7; 2 Kings 6:16; 1 John 4:4; Psalm 27:1-3, 5-6

III. THE RELATIONSHIP IS ETERNAL Psalm 23:6

- How lasting is our relationship with the Shepherd? John 10:27-28; 17:2-3
- How does Jesus describe the “house of the Lord” in John 14:1-3?
- What did the apostle Paul say about it in 1 Corinthians 2:9?
- List some of the aspects of Heaven in Revelation 21:1-5; 22-27; Revelation 22:3-5
- What aspect of Heaven do you look forward to the most?
- According to Psalm 23:6, how long will we live in Heaven with our Shepherd?

As we enter into 2026 with the “yellow envelopes” it may hold, make sure you have established a beneficial, personal, eternal relationship with the Shepherd. Then don’t worry or be afraid. He will be with you and see you through.