

Taking It Home:

- In **1 Peter 2:18-25**, we read that Jesus is the shepherd and overseer of our souls. How does 2:24 help you understand how to apply the truth that the Great Shepherd lays down His life for His sheep (John 10)?

- Having considered some of the major themes in the Hebrew Scriptures regarding the sheep and shepherd, read **1 Peter 5** and consider how you might apply what you've learned as a sheep under the care of the Great Shepherd.

- The shepherd of Psalm 23 tenderly cares for His sheep by providing them with every need for life and protecting them from the fear of danger. If you find yourself longing for contentment, consider **Matthew 6:25-33** and **1 Timothy 6:6-7**. Allow the Good Shepherd to meet you where you are and care for you as only He can.

- Read **Hebrews 13:20-21** aloud as if the author of Hebrews were writing just to you. The Great Shepherd-King, Jesus is working in you for His glory. We have much to celebrate!

Book 1: Jehovah is My Shepherd

Notes:

Growth Group Homework

For the week of May 26, 2013

Psalm 23:1

Quick Review: Today's study in Psalm 23 reminds us that God shepherds His people. The image of God as a shepherd-king helps us understand our relationship with God. Sheep are known not for their intelligence and self-reliance but for their ignorance and need of a shepherd. Apart from a loving and protecting shepherd the sheep are easy prey. The language of Psalm 23 reminds us that God is both all-powerful and all-loving. Because God is all powerful he can protect and provide for His sheep. Because God is all loving he cares tenderly and personally for His sheep. God doesn't need relationship to be God but He seeks relationship with his sheep wanting to tenderly feed and care for His sheep in real time, right now.

My Story:

- Where have you seen God caring for you this past week?

- Thinking about the recent tornado in Oklahoma, where do you see God at work in that natural disaster?

Growing Deeper:

- As you read **Psalm 23**, list the ways the LORD (Yahweh) shepherds His people. Notice the present tense of 23:1. David says that God is doing this in the here and now.

- Consider **Isaiah 53:1-12** and especially verse 6. How does God respond to those who have strayed away from Him? What do **Isaiah 40:11** and **Jeremiah 31:10** tell us about God's character as a shepherd?

- Jesus says He is the Good Shepherd in **John 10**. What parallels do you notice between Psalm 23 and John 10? What stands out to you most about Jesus as shepherd in John 10?