

## Royal Redeemer Going Deeper Guide

Based on the sermon for November 10, 2024  
Goodness of God: Where Gratitude Begins



For personal reflection or for use as a devotion with a  
CGS Community or family

- **Begin by reflecting on/sharing a high and/or a low from your week**

- **CONNECT**

- What's something you're grateful for today that you might have taken for granted a year ago?

- **GROW**

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures,

He leads me beside quiet waters, 3 he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

**Psalm 23:1-6**

- Share any words or phrases that speak into your life today.
- What is the significance of the image of a shepherd in the Bible, especially in ancient Israelite culture?
- Knowing that David, a former shepherd, wrote this psalm, how might his personal experiences shape the imagery and themes he uses here?
- In verse 1, David describes God as his shepherd, leading him to lack nothing. How does this metaphor of God as shepherd reflect His role in providing for and caring for His people?
- Verse 2 speaks of God leading to green pastures and still waters. How do these images reflect the peace and rest God provides, and why might this imagery be significant for those seeking guidance or comfort?
- In verse 3, David says God “refreshes” or “restores” his soul. How do you understand this phrase, and what might it mean to experience this restoration in your own life?
- In verse 4, David speaks of fearlessness even in the “valley of the shadow of death” because of God’s presence. How might this part of the psalm speak to our trust in God during difficult or fearful times?
- The “rod” and “staff” in verse 4 are tools a shepherd uses to protect and guide. What do these symbols reveal about God’s role in our lives as both protector and guide?

- o Verse 5 describes God preparing a table and anointing David's head with oil, his "cup overflows." What might this symbolize in terms of God's abundant blessings, even in the presence of challenges?
- o How can the themes of comfort, guidance, and God's faithful care in Psalm 23 encourage us in today's world? How might we remind ourselves of God's presence in both peaceful and challenging seasons of life?

- **SERVE** *others*

During the month of November Royal Redeemer will be participating once again in Operation Christmas Child, an organization that seeks to bring the message of Christ's birth to every corner of the world through the giving of Christmas presents. This year we are asking that folks grab a shoebox from the Commons, fill it up as per the instructions, and return it by November 24th.

To learn more about Operation Christmas Child or make a donation online, please visit [samaritanspurse.org](http://samaritanspurse.org).

- **End with Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, or a short Blessing**