

Small Group Study Guide: Thanks (Week 1)

Being thankful is sometimes referred to as the “attitude of gratitude.” Take time to share something you are thankful for.

1) Thanks: For Protection. (Psalm 23:1-3)

- The Lord is my Shepherd. What does this mean to you?
- Do we each recognize God’s right to lead us and how do we respond to His authority?
- Do we find freedom and fulfillment in this arrangement?
- Discuss. How do “*green pastures*” stress God being in control of our lives? (Matt. 5:6)
- What are the calm waters that God brings us to and what does this create in our lives? (V-2 why “makes me”?)
- How do the “rod” and “staff” represent God’s leadership and protection? Do we welcome God’s shepherding?

2) Thanks: For Provision. (Psalm 23:5)

- If we declare, “*I shall not want*” does that mean that we shall not lack? Reconcile God’s provision against our need verses our greed.
- Define and discuss God preparing a table before us. Have you experienced this in your own life? Why do you believe He would do so before our enemies?
- Can you think of a way that God has anointed your head with oil or allowed your cup to overflow? Discuss.
- How does our Shepherd replace fear with *protection* and want with *provision*? Define and discuss.

3) Thanks: For Promise. (Psalm 23:6)

- What does goodness and mercy look like in your life? Share with each other. Do we fully appreciate the goodness and mercy of God?
- What does it mean to dwell in the House of the Lord forever? How is this an acceptance of God’s protection, provision and promise?
- How can God’s promise be palpable in our lives?