Brockley Homegroup Study Psalm 23

**QUESTIONS**

The purpose of this study is to explore the well-loved Psalm 23. We want to understand it better, see how it makes a practical difference to how we live and think. Doing this together is important. We learn from each other’s questions and answers and we learn about each other too – which helps build our sense of family and care for each other.

Start on time even if some people haven’t quite made it yet.

**Psalm 23**

The Lord *is* my shepherd; I shall not want.
**2**He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters. **3**He restores my soul;
He leads me in the paths of righteousness, for His name’s sake.

**4**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
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 runs over.
**6**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord
Forever.

**Q1**
Without looking - can anybody recite Psalm 23 from memory? (Any version is fine) If one single person can’t do it – see if you can do it as a group.

**Q2**
Here is a quiz on the Psalms. All the answers are numbers. Closest guess wins!

(i)
How many Psalms are there?

(ii)
How many of the Psalms were written by David?

(iii)
How many different authors contribute to the Psalms?

(iv)
Which is the longest Psalm?

(v)
How many verses in the longest Psalm?

(vi)
Which is the shortest Psalm?

(vii)
How many verses in the shortest Psalm?

(viii)
How long in years between the earliest and the latest psalms?

**Q3**
What evidence is there that the Psalms were written so that they could be memorised?

**Q4**
In the ancient world what was the job of the shepherd like and how does this help us understand God as our Shepherd?

**Q5**
For you where or what are the green pastures and still waters? What restores your soul? The phrase ‘he makes me lie down’ is interesting. It suggests that the sheep is reluctant to stop and rest. Do you find it hard to stop, relax and do nothing? Did the enforced ‘rest’ of the lockdown make you feel better or worse?

**Q6**
In verse 3 David says, “He leads me in the paths of righteousness”. How do you understand this? What are the paths of righteousness? Do you feel God leading you and how does he do it?

**Q7**
How afraid of dying are you? In Psalm 23 how does David face death and the other troubles of life?

**Prayer**

Don’t let time for praise and prayer get squeezed out. Don’t let prayer become just a list of ill people and woes.