



CONNECT BREAK THE ICE AND GET PEOPLE TALKING

- How has seeking God been going for you this week?
- What's your favorite song or poem, and why?
- If you want, you can watch the Bible Project Video on the art of biblical poetry to help give context for what we've been reading this week: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/art-biblical-poetry/>.

READ & DISCUSS UNDERSTAND & APPLY THE SCRIPTURE'S MEANING

Have you ever wondered why God decided to make so much of his Word poetry? Poetry is language packed with meaning, and made beautiful so that it rewards our attention. The promise of a poet is, "I spent hours on every word of this; there's more here than meets the eye!" What better tool for God to train us to think and see as beautifully as he does!

<i>READ</i>	<i>DISCUSS</i>
Psalm 23:1-3	One of the first things poetry does to us is plunge us into a new way of seeing the world. Take a moment and each silently imagine these images: Christ as your shepherd, leading you to blessing and sustenance. Give them space to develop and have their emotional impact on you.
Psalm 23:4	The power of metaphor and imagery is that they imply new ways of living. If Christ is truly our shepherd, "we will fear no evil." At times, fear is inevitable, but it's always worth asking: how am I imagining God and the world such that it makes sense for me to be afraid? Having our imaginations transformed by Scripture isn't academic, it's practical.
Psalm 23:5-6	Nine times out of ten, poetry in Scripture works its way towards praise. Poetry is meant to change the way we see, and when we see God clearly, praise comes naturally! Does praise generally come easily to you? How intuitive is this picture of God for you?

PRAY RESPOND TO THE PASSAGE IN PRAYER

The Psalms are meant to guide us in prayer—they teach us how to speak to God, how to worship and mourn and ask and give thanks. Pray this psalm together; tell the Lord he is your shepherd, and ask him to lead you beside still waters. Wherever this is turbulence in your life, ask him to still it; wherever there is need, ask him to fill you.

Discipleship Check-In

- How has praying and reading your Bible gone this past week?
- Who is someone you're praying to share Jesus with this week, and what's one way you can love them well?
- How did you become more like Jesus this week?