

# PRAY WITH THE KING

## LIFE GROUP MATERIAL

### 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting **THEME: The problem of longing without having**

**Prepare** yourself. Pray for your Life Group's meeting. Read Psalm 23

**20.00 – 20.10 Start** Today's Psalm will be about comfort from God, confidence in God, a strong conviction that God will give a great future. Have you recently experienced these things? Or experienced that you lacked one of these? (let's share our stories honestly).

**20.10 – 20.15 Pray** Ask God's Spirit to teach you from Psalm 23 so that its treasures will come to each of you.

**20.15 – 20.40 Bible passage**

**Introduction:** Psalm 23 speaks about wonderful things everybody longs for. But let's try to learn from this Psalm how we could not only long for these things, but also have these things!

**Read Psalm 23 twice**

**Look again at verses 1-3:           The comforted sheep. The sheep is satisfied. Its LORD provides.**

- Who is the one who first spoke these words? What might have inspired him to write these words?
- When do you experience worries that you will lack something? What can we learn here? (s. also Mat. 6:33)

**Look again at verse 4:           The confident sheep. The sheep is safe. Its LORD protects.**

- What is the reason he is not afraid under frightening circumstances?
- Have you recently experienced fears?

**Look again at verses 5-6:           The convicted sheep. The sheep is seen. Its LORD promises a glorious future.**

- Look at the grammar: what is the subject in verses 1-3? and what is the subject in verses 4b and 5? Why would there be this change in the Psalm?
- To whom do these verses apply better/best: a) to you, b) to David, c) to Jesus? Why

**[Optional: Look at this Psalm in the broader context of the Scriptures. Look at the attached quotations from Scripture. Is there one that gives you deeper insight in Psalm 23?]**

**Look at how this Psalm is fulfilled in Jesus**

In John 10 Jesus calls Himself the good Shepherd. So He is: the Shepherd. But: could Jesus also be the 'I' in this Psalm? What profit could we have from it, if Jesus is also the 'I', the One praying this Psalm?

**20.40 – 20.50 Digging deeper: a Psalm for us**

Read the Psalm once more and take a few minutes of silence. Then let each answer this question: Which verse or what thought or lesson from this Psalm is especially important for you at this particular moment?

**20.50 – 21.00 End** Close the meeting with prayer.