

# Fearless

## As We Face the Future

**Fearless comes from *who*, not *what* (Psalm 23:1-6).** When it comes to the future, we are all *blind*. That reality for many produces significant fear and anticipatory anxiety. Thankfully, in our blindness and uncertainty about the future, the heart of our God is to restore our souls and give us abundant life. Jesus is a shepherd who not only guides us but empowers us, protects us, and is with us. We live fearlessly as we listen for and respond in obedience to His voice (John 10:4). He does not give us a map of *the what* for the days to come and leave us on our own. He gives us *the who*: Himself. We can run fearlessly in life because we run closely with Him who holds the future.

### GETTING STARTED

Why do people turn to things such as astrology (horoscopes), mediums, or psychics to cope with the unknowns of the future? In a similar way, why do Christians often become unhealthily enamored with the end times, prophecy about the future, etc.? What produces such fear of the future in people that they turn to these things with fascination or desperation?

### GO DEEPER

1. According to Psalm 23:3, **who** restores my soul? Why is it significant that the verb *to restore* is present tense, not past tense, in this verse? What does it mean that God has already prepared for our future failures and mistakes?
2. From John 10:9-10, what are the greatest differences between the shepherd and the thief? What promise does Jesus make to us as our Shepherd in these verses? Why is the concept of Jesus as the *door* significant?
3. In John 10:4 and Galatians 5:25, how do we experience abundant life? What does it look like to stay in step with the Spirit?

### MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Do you hear the Shepherd's voice, and if so, do you trust that voice to lead you? When have you clearly heard the Lord's voice, and yet, you were disobedient? When have you heard the Lord's voice and were obedient? How did either or both situations play out for you?
2. What things have you turned to (in healthy or unhealthy ways) hoping to make sense of your anticipatory anxiety about the future?
3. What in your soul does the Lord need to restore right now?

### PRACTICE IT NOW

Take some time as a group to pray together, asking God to help you to hear His voice and to be obedient to where He leads. For the areas of your life that need to be restored, invite the Holy Spirit to work supernaturally. Ask God to give you grace to trust His heart for your future.