

Fearless

Fear of Too Much

Life is full of valleys that are greater than what we have (Psalm 23:1-6). Life is full of battles that find us in a valley. Valleys can be relational conflict, failure, grief and loss, or fear. Thankfully, God is King and Ruler of both the mountains and the valleys. His promise to us is that He will never abandon us or leave us on our own. That powerful truth means we do not have to prepare for the valleys. Instead, all that is needed is for us to stay close to God as our Shepherd, who will graciously give us all that we need for whatever valley we find ourselves in.

GETTING STARTED

Are you a *prepared-for-the-unexpected* kind of person or more of a *spur-of-the-moment* kind of person? Do you tend to be a planner or more spontaneous? How do you typically react when something unexpected comes your way? Do unexpected situations cause stress or anxiety for you, or can you *roll with the punches* easily?

GO DEEPER

1. According to Psalm 23:4, how do we fearlessly walk through a difficult valley? Where does our confidence in a valley come from?
2. What kinds of valleys are described in 1 Samuel 17:2-4, Genesis 14:10-12, and Numbers 13:23-33? What other types of valleys can we encounter?
3. What makes the valley in 1 Kings 20:23-28 different from the previous valleys? What does God say in this valley that He didn't say in the others, and why is that important?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. What valley are you experiencing right now (or have experienced recently)? How did you respond? Where is or was God in your valley, and what is He speaking or revealing?
2. How well do you believe or trust the promise of Romans 8:32 that He will graciously give you all things in your valleys?
3. How tempting is it for you to think or feel that God is not with you in the valley?

PRACTICE IT NOW

As a group, in an attitude and atmosphere of prayer, thank God for His promise to never abandon you in the low places. Verbally declare your faith and trust that He will provide all that you need in the valley. Ask Him for an ever-increasing desire to stay close to Him as your Shepherd, for the ability to walk through difficult valleys fearlessly because He is with you.