

## **CAMPUS CONNECT** [10.28.2011]

→ YOUR MISSION:

- 1) **Point** to Christ as the ultimate treasure in life
- 2) **Find** out where your friends are in their faith in Christ
- 3) **Challenge** each other to know & grow in Christ
- 4) **Love** your friends & find ways to be united with them in Christ

1. HAVE SOMEONE OPEN IN PRAYER.

2. VERSE DISCUSSION:

***“1 The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need.***

***2 He lets me rest in green meadows; He leads me beside peaceful streams.”***

***Psalms 23:1-2 NLT***

**ASK THE GROUP:**

--> Lots of people know this part of the Bible and have no problem with it, but it indicates a particular type of relationship between God and the writer. Let's talk about that relationship...

--> He is Shepherd aka in charge

--> David the writer is a sheep and a follower of the Shepherd

--> If you claim to follow Jesus, does your life seem to show that the Lord is your shepherd?  
(or are you making someone/thing else Lord?)

**ASK THE GROUP:** Have the group read John 10:4-16 to get a picture of our Good Shepherd and to see what his true sheep act like. After, have a discussion on what true sheep do, what they are like. Use it to help them see if they are really making Jesus their Lord.





VS.



## BACKGROUND

The pictures explain it all. On one side we have cute, adorable, but dumb sheep. On the other side we have a ferocious killing machine. Our problem is that the Bible is quite fond of using the analogy of sheep when referring to people and a lion when referring to God and Satan (though God is the alpha male =]). However, instead of getting down in the dumps because we aren't tough, we should rejoice. After all, when something is created to fill a role and then tries to play a different role, it fails. Let's face it, we weren't created to be the leader, but the follower... and sheep do that quite well.

Our text this week is Psalm 23:1-2, which draws on the sheep/shepherd analogy commonly found in the Scriptures. King David, whose role in Israel was to be a shepherd, (1 Chron. 11:2, even though he wasn't perfect), himself declares the Lord to be the ultimate shepherd. (This was the case for subsequent kings who were supposed to shepherd, though they usually disobeyed like Ezek. 34:1-10). It's interesting that the picture David gives in 23:2 is one of peace as he is led by the Lord. We as humans are so prone to want to BE a shepherd, to want to take charge and lead. Being called to follow is something that doesn't come naturally, yet, following the Lord is the best possible decision that we could ever make.

Ultimately, our lack of following the Lord boils down to trust, do we trust the leadership and plan of God or not. When you listen to words of David though, you see why he submits to the leading of God. God provides all his needs (v1b), he leads him to good grazing land (v2a), and he provides a peaceful place to drink (v2b). So often we import incorrect views of God onto God and don't actually listen to what the Bible says about him. If we've been burned by a father (figure) in the past, led astray by someone we trusted, abused by boss/leader, we tend to think all people in those positions are like that. Despite the failure of human leaders, we must not let them color our picture of God, because David certainly didn't (Check out the rest of Psalm 23, read Ezekiel 34:11-31, and then John 10:1-18). Our God is not tyrannical and out to get us, he genuinely cares for us, loves us, and desires the best for us. Will we let Him provide for us, eat from the food He chooses to give us (I am the bread of life - John 6), and enjoy the peace/rest He died to give us (Come to me all who are weary - Matthew 11), or trust ourselves to our peril?