**Songs of Faith, 2014**

**Psalm 23: The Shepherd’s Song**

**Community Group Homework**

**week of September 22, 2014**

***Getting Started***

1. When times are stressful what song or hymn do you like to whistle, hum or sing? What comforting effect does singing a praise song have on your life?
2. Why do think self-help formulas like “forget about it” or “sleep on it” fail when the pressures get unbearable?

***Going Deeper* (Read Psalm 23)**

1. Why did David use the relationship between a shepherd and his flock to describe his relationship to God?
2. What are some characteristics of sheep? of a good shepherd?
3. What promises did Jesus make to His sheep in John 10:10-11?
4. What is it about sheep that required Jesus to “lay down His life” for the sheep? See Isaiah 53:6.
5. What is meant by David’s description of sheep lying down in green pastures?
6. How does David describe God’s promise of guidance in verses 2-3?
7. Define some “paths of righteousness” that God leads every believer to walk in.
8. What are some paths of unrighteousness that you desire to avoid?

***Growing Stronger***

1. Death casts a frightening shadow over us because we have no control over it. What does Psalm 23:4 teach us about death?
2. Why should the Christian not fear death? See Philippians 3:20-21.
3. Why did a shepherd carry a “rod” and “staff”? What was the function of each?
4. What role does God’s “rod” and “staff” play in the life of a believer? (Hebrews 12)
5. Where do you see the picture of victory in Psalm 23:5?
6. Recall a time when God gave you an undeserved or unexpected victory…and thank Him.
7. Compare Psalm 23:6 and John 14:2-3. What similarities do you see?

***Getting Together***

1. Thank God for His shepherd’s heart.
2. Share your prayer concerns and pray for each other.