



March 31/20017, Week #3

Leader Guide

Leader Tip: We have provided a short video within The Text section that will be helpful for your group to view. Please prepare in advance a way to display the link provided.

THE WIN

The group member will be challenged to grow in a deeper understanding of their faith in the Lord's presence, protection and provision in the midst of their darkest valleys.

1-2
minutes

SERMON RECAP: WHAT DID THE TEXT MEAN? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Say This:

In the message this week we learned that Believers are not immune from difficulty and danger but the Lord will provide His presence to protect us.

Leader Tip: Be prepared to give a brief synopsis of this week's message if no one volunteers in the following question.

Ask This:

- What was your take-away from the message on Sunday?

3-5
minutes

WARM UP

Say This:

Many of us have experienced something where we nearly died.

Ask This:

- What were the circumstances for your near death experience? What happened?

THE TEXT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

Leader Tip: *It may be helpful to ask someone prior to your meeting to prepare to recite the passage*

The Text: Psalm 23

Say This:

On Sunday, we were challenged to memorize the life-changing words of Psalm 23.

Ask This:

- Would anyone be willing to recite the passage from memory to us?

Say This:

Let's focus our attention on Psalm 23:4-5

Read This:

"Even when I go through the darkest valley, I fear no danger, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows."

Leader Tip: *To help model transparency it may be helpful if the leader would share a story of their own valley first, and then ask the following questions.*

Ask This:

- What dark valley you are experiencing right now?
- What has been your attitude toward your valley up to this point?
- How does the Psalm 23:4-5 passage affect your perspective on your valley?

Say This:

Someone please read Hebrews 11:32-38

Ask This:

- How would you describe the difference between the valleys you face and those in the Hebrews passage?
- How does the passage in Hebrews challenge your way of thinking about valleys in your life?
- What are some valuable lessons you have learned by going through dark valleys?

Say This:

Sometimes it is hard for us to identify with people who lived 2000 or more years ago, let's look at a modern day story of the valley experience.

Play This Video:

<https://youtu.be/5ZJixTyF5f4>

Ask This:

- What are your thoughts about Anita's attitude toward her husband's killers?
- In light of Anita's story what do you think Psalms 23:5 means when it says "*you prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows*"?

Say This:

There are some who would say that dark valleys come into our lives because we have sin or because we have not exhibited enough faith.

Ask This:

- How would you answer someone if they said this about your dark valley?

CLOSING THOUGHT

"While other worldviews lead us to sit in the midst of life's joys, foreseeing the coming sorrows, Christianity empowers its people to sit in the midst of this world's sorrows, tasting the coming joy."

Timothy Keller

"Walking with God through Pain and Suffering"