

LIFE GROUP GUIDE: STYL#6: PSALMS 22&23

CONNECT IN with one another

How was your Easter? What did God particularly impress upon you this Easter season?

[This is a good catch-up question after the Easter break, but it also goes a bit deeper. Did people just go into autopilot over Easter or did they genuinely meet with God at Eastertime this year?]

CONNECT UP with God

- Read **Psalm 23**.
- This is probably the best known and best loved psalm in the collection. What particularly resonates with you in this psalm? What are you experiencing right now from God, or what do you most need to experience from him right now?
[Take plenty of time on this, getting people to write down each of their answers on a post-it note to stick on the wall. You should end up with a wall covered in the blessings listed in Psalm 23]
- Now read **John 10:11**. We don't deserve any of these blessings because we are sheep who have gone astray. Yet Jesus bought these blessings back for us with his own blood.
- Read **Psalm 22**.
- What did Jesus have to suffer so that we could experience the blessings of Psalm 23?
[Take plenty of time on this, getting people to write down this second set of answers on a post-it note to stick on another wall. You should end up with a second wall covered in the sufferings of Jesus.
If you get stuck, try contrasting **Psalm 22:1** with **23:1**, as illustrated in **Mt 27:46**. Try contrasting **Psalm 22:6-7** with **23:2-3**, as illustrated in **Mt 27:39-43**. Try contrasting **Psalm 22:12-15** with **23:4-5**, as illustrated in **Jn 19:28-29**. Try contrasting the final words of **Psalm 22:15** with the first words of **23:2**. Try contrasting **Psalm 22:16-18** with **23:6**, as illustrated by **Jn 19:23-24**.]
- Move into a worship time in which you praise Jesus for his sufferings, using the second wall of post-it notes to inspire your thankfulness towards him.
- After a while, move into a time of prayer and ministry for one another, laying hold of the blessings listed on the first wall of post-it notes for one another. These blessings are blood-bought gifts that now belong to you in Jesus.

CONNECT OUT with the non-church people around you

- Now re-read **Psalm 22:27-31**. The psalm promises that these blessings are not just for you. They are also for people from every nation and every generation. In other words, they are for the people that live in your streets, who work in your office and who share your community with you. Spend as much time praying for them as you have just spent praying for yourselves. Pray these blessings over the unbelievers that you know.
- Pray that the Good Shepherd will use you to bring many lost sheep back to him.