



### **I Will Fear No Evil - August/September 2021**

The journey toward the heavenly Promised Land is fraught with dangers and perils, and we need a shepherd to help us arrive there safely. Fearing evil and trusting God do not mix. When we are confident in God's goodness, we can say with the psalmist, *"The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?"* In our darkest, most trying times, we must remember that God is near (Psalm 34:18). He is our Shepherd, and we are in His constant care. Throughout our lives and even in death, His goodness and love will never fail us (Psalm 23:6). Only when we are secure in the knowledge that our Good Shepherd is with us can we confidently say, *"I will fear no evil."*

#### **Read Psalm 23, Acts 26, John 10:7-18**

Pastor Riddle mentioned the shepherd's rod and staff. What was each used for?

The rod was the shepherd's tool to both protect and correct the sheep. Have there been times in your life where you have felt God in doing both? How so?

Pastor Riddle mentioned Saul (later the Apostle Paul) fighting against God's will in his life.

*'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.'* Acts 26:14 What do you think Jesus meant by this?

Are there examples in your own life where God was working on you and you resisted? Why?

Why is self-sufficiency the enemy of salvation and our connection with God?

Why is fear such a dominant theme in our culture and lives?

What is the biggest fear you are presently struggling with? How does God's presence remove that fear?

**Serve:** Ask God to reveal and open doors to others who are struggling with fear and how you can walk alongside them with Christ through the Valley.

