

Psalm 23 (New International Version)

Summary: *This is a vocal and physical interpretation of the familiar Psalm 23.*

Character Requirements: *Minimum of four actors per Star Search rules. No maximum. No gender requirements. Lines can be broken up differently depending on the number of actors you choose to work with.*

Note: *The voicing and physical movements (in parenthesis) are just suggestions and not a requirement for Star Search. Feel free to change them to suit your needs. It is nice to have your group come up with their own movements and interpretation as this process will help them truly think about the meaning of the text. Plus they will have fun doing it. The process can be a wonderful discipleship tool. Don't forget to keep the text expressive and meaningful. This psalm is so familiar that it can often sound as if we are just reciting it by rote.*

Variations:

- *Instead of the actors doing the movements individually, you might create one tableau (frozen picture) with the entire group on a few lines.*
- *Use some effective underscoring. Music should be simple with no lyrics that might distract from the spoken text. The music should support it.*
- *Don't be afraid to use humor. But use it appropriately.*

Actors stand across stage facing audience.

1: Psalm 23

All: New International Version.

1: The LORD is my shepherd, (*Movt.- Raise right arm with hand extended; On 'shepherd', bring hand to position as if holding a shepherd's staff.*)

2: I lack nothing. (*Movt. – Cross both arms in front of body with palms flat. On 'nothing', move arms out. Almost like an umpire indicating 'he's safe!'*)

3: He makes me lie down in green pastures, (*Movt.- Head on hands.*)

4: he leads me beside quiet waters, (*Movt. – Move right arm from left to right and 'see' the water.*)

All: he refreshes my soul. (*Movt. – Each person creates their own movement here and does them at the same time.*)

1: He guides me along the right paths (*Movt. – Move both arms from legs to straight out in front.*)

2: Even though I walk through the darkest valley, (*Movt. – Walk slowly as if pulling back bushes in a forest.*)

3: I will fear no evil, (*Movt. – Palms up with a smile.*)

All: for you are with me; (*Movt. – Point up with both fingers.*)

4: your rod and your staff, (*Movt. – Right hand up, then left hand up as if holding staffs.*)

All: they comfort me. (*Movt. – Cross both arms over chest.*)

1: You prepare a table before me (*Movt. – Move arms to outline shape of table.*)

All: in the presence of my enemies. (*Movt. – point to enemy in the distance.*)

2: You anoint my head with oil; (*Movt. – Both hands above head as if feeling the oil go over head.*)

All: my cup overflows. (*Movt. – Each person creates their own movement here and does them at the same time.*)

3: Surely your goodness and love will follow me (*Movt. – Step forward with arms moving behind.*)

4: all the days of my life, (*Movt. – Arms extended up.*)

All: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. (*Movt. – Each person creates their own movement here and does them at the same time. However, on the word 'forever', everyone, no matter what position they are in, should look heavenward.*)