



**PRAYING THE PSALMS – PSALM 23 (VS. 4)  
FEARING NO EVIL  
WOMEN'S DISCIPLESHIP GROUP  
Terri McFaddin  
Series #2 Lesson #3**

**SCRIPTURE FOCUS:** *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me (Psalm 23:4).*

**Key Word: Rod and Staff** – One instrument with two ends. **Rod** - Hooked-end of a stick used for gathering and inspecting sheep. **Staff** - A symbol of authority and rule. The staff is the straight end of the stick. Often used as a weapon of protection or beating or for support.

**OPENING STATEMENT:**

The psalmist shares with us his testimony of walking in a place of danger and uncertainty. Yet, he proclaims that he is without fear because he finds comfort in the rod and staff of the Lord. As a shepherd David knew that power of the *rod and staff*. It is like a double-edged sword, one stick with two ends. One end of the stick was called the rod. It had a hook that was used to grab the necks of the sheep and pull them out of dangerous situations. The other end is a staff that has a sharp tip that was used to fend off wild animals that came to attack the defenseless sheep. This was the power of the ordinary rod/staff. But David is not referring an ordinary rod/staff. He said the Lord's rod and staff would be there to comfort him. The original Hebrew meaning of the word *comfort* is to *bring rest by taking vengeance*. David had the blessed assurance that whatever came against him the Lord was able to rescue him and protect him. In every crisis the rod of the Lord pulled David out of dangerous situations and the staff of the Lord was there to fight off and overcome all of Satan's attacks.

**OBSERVATION:**

Search the scriptures and number the ways that the *rod and/or staff* were used to demonstrate God's power in the following areas:

1. Power over serpents
2. Deliverance from enemies
3. Victory in battles

**INTERPRETATION:**

Read 1 Samuel 17:19-52. What do you think David meant by – *the valleys of the shadow of death*?

**PERSONALIZATION:**

1. What are the fears that you have experienced and/or overcome in the valleys of your life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How did the Lord comfort you when you were in the valley of fear?

**APPLICATION:**

Find 3 scriptures that relieve your fears and share them with someone that is facing a fearful situation.