“GOD, IT SEEMS SO DARK AND LONELY HERE.”

Ps. 23:4 - Even 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.

Henry Ward Beecher called Ps. 23 the nightingale of the Psalms. The nightingale sings sweetest when the ______________ is ________________.

I Cor. 15:55 - "Where, O death is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

This phrase means, "the glen of ____________": the most fearful darkness. It is also used to mean a mine shaft (Job 28:3) and a wild, uninhabited desert (Jer. 2:6).

There are 3 important things about valleys, and why a shepherd leads his flock through them.
  **Every mountain has its _________________. The best route to the top is along those valleys.
  **This is also the best watered way.
  **The best foliage is found along this route.

Heb. 12:2,3: It's our job to stay ______________ to our _________________!!

What are some of the dark places of life?

Two bottom lines:
  God doesn't remove ________________ from our lives (Matt. 5:45)
  God will be ________________ ________ during those difficulties

WHAT ABOUT THE “ROD AND "STAFF"?
  Rod – ________________

  Staff – ________________