



Sermon Notes: "The Lord is my Shepherd"

Psalm 23:1

5.10.26

My Shepherd:

- Before God is anything else to you, He must be YOURS.
- The God who keeps His covenant with Israel is the same God who shepherds YOU.

The Lord:

- The Shepherd isn't a god you manage. He's a God you surrender to.

I have all that I need:

- "I shall not want" doesn't mean I get everything I desire—it means I trust the Shepherd to give me what I actually need.
- You can only pour out what you've been storing up.

So What?

Move from belonging to everyone and everything else → to belonging to the Shepherd first.

What would it look like this week to start your day by remembering you belong to the Shepherd before you belong to anyone else's agenda?

For Study, Reflection, Discussion During the Week:

Life Group ICEBREAKER: Who is someone in your life that has made you feel safe, cared for, or protected? What made their presence meaningful to you?

REVIEW:

Review the sermon notes from Sunday. Was there a particular point that stuck with you? What was it and why did it resonate with you?

READ: Psalm 23:1

- David says, “The LORD is MY shepherd.” Why is the word “my” so important in this verse? How is personal trust different from simply believing facts about God?
 - The sermon pointed out that the Shepherd leads rather than drags. Where in your life is it hardest to actually follow God’s leading instead of trying to stay in control?
 - Jesus says in John 10, “My sheep hear my voice.” What are some practical ways we learn to recognize and respond to the Shepherd’s voice?
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READ: Psalm 23:1 and Matthew 11:28-29

- The sermon contrasted the God of Scripture with the idea of a distant “on-call” god who only shows up in emergencies. Have you ever drifted into treating God that way? What tends to pull us into that mindset?
 - The sermon said, “The Shepherd isn’t a god you manage. He’s a God you surrender to.” What does surrender actually look like in everyday life? What is a way that you can surrender to God this week?
 - Jesus invites the weary to come to Him for rest, but His invitation also includes taking on His yoke. Why do you think true rest is connected to surrender and obedience?
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READ: Psalm 23:1

- “I shall not want” doesn’t mean we get everything we desire, but that the Shepherd provides what we *truly* need. Why is that distinction important? What are some ways culture constantly tells us we are lacking? How does Psalm 23 challenge that message?
 - One of the main points this week said, “You can only pour out what you’ve been storing up.” What has been filling your “treasury” lately? What fruit are you producing?
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DEPLOY:

1. Start each day this week by intentionally reminding yourself: “The Lord is my shepherd.” Find one practical way to pause and remember you belong to Him before anyone or anything else.
 2. Identify one area where you’ve been running on empty. What would it look like to invite the Shepherd into that specific area this week instead of trying to carry it alone?
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Don't Forget:

- Happy Mother’s Day! Don’t forget to appreciate the people in your life this week.
 - Consider volunteering at VBS this year, June 8th - 12th talk to Shaun for more information
 - Graduation Sunday May 24th!
 - Cove Camp 2026 – Register using the QR code in the bulletin or go to our church website.
 - Meal Train - Consider volunteering to bring a meal to one of our church members in need. Find more information in the bulletin or on the church website.
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Prayer:

Father, thank You for being our Shepherd. Thank You that we are not left to lead ourselves or carry life alone. Forgive us for the ways we drift toward self-reliance, anxiety, and control. Teach us what it means to truly belong to You and to trust that You will provide what we need. Fill our hearts so that what overflows from us reflects Your peace, Your presence, and Your care. Lead us, restore us, and help us follow closely this week. In Jesus’ name, Amen.