



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Title: The Lord is My Shepherd

Date: April 26, 2026

Scripture Text: Psalm 23

Notes:

If you’ve been to a funeral, most likely you’ve heard [Psalm 23](#) read. It is probably most associated with those types of services. But [Psalm 23](#) is applicable in any circumstances of life. Written by David, it is a song of confidence and trust in the Lord. He expresses trust in the midst of his enemies. He describes God as the Shepherd and he as one of His sheep. Sheep are vulnerable animals, who find themselves in trouble when they stray from their shepherd. This psalm describes the blessings of staying close to the Shepherd and trusting in His provision, protection and presence.

I. God Takes Care of My FRAILTIES (Psalm 23:1-3)

With the Lord as his shepherd, the psalmist lacks nothing. As a shepherd supplies all the needs of his sheep, so God supplies all the needs of His people. The word “Lord” is also rendered Jehovah. Jehovah’s meaning is a combination of 3-tenses of the Hebrew verb ‘TO BE’. They are ‘will be’, ‘is being’, ‘was’. In other words, Jehovah was, is, and is to come ([Rev. 4:8](#)). He always was and always will be. The Bible uses Jehovah in multiple ways to show us that regardless of our circumstances, Jehovah God is there with us.

Jehovah Jireh - Provider	Jehovah Chezeq - My Strength
Jehovah Rapha - Healer	Jehovah Misqabbi - My Strong tower
Jehovah Nissi - Banner	Jehovah Zeli - My Rock
Jehovah M’Kadesh - Sanctifier	Jehovah Hoshea - My Savior
Jehovah Chereb - My Sword	Jehovah Ori - My Light
Jehovah Magen - My Shield	Jehovah Gannan - My Defense
Jehovah Shalom - My Peace	Jehovah Mochsi - My Refuge
Jehovah Sabaoth - Host of Heaven	Jehovah Goel - My Redeemer
Jehovah Kahbodi - My Glory	Jehovah Maoz - Fortress
	Jehovah Tsidkenu - Righteousness

The Lord (Jehovah) is my Shepherd, I have EVERYTHING I need ([v. 1](#))! That includes nutrition ([v. 2](#)) and restoration ([v. 3](#)).

- In the past week, what ways has Jehovah been there for you (use the list above)?
- Describe a time God provided for your needs.
- In [v. 3](#), the psalmist finds restoration in the guidance and provision of the Shepherd. How has God restored your soul and led you down the path of righteousness. How good are you at following His guidance?



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II. God Takes Care of My FOES (Psalm 23:4-5)

The psalmist describes God's presence and protection no matter where he goes, even if it is through the valley of the shadow of death. This valley is described as a ravine where all kinds of predators could be hiding. The shepherd's rod and staff are used to fend off such predators and to prod the sheep forward. God treats the psalmist as his guest in the presence of his enemies. He expresses confidence in God not during a moment of peace, but rather when being pressed by enemies. Through His presence and provision, God demonstrates to the enemies whose side He is on.

- Starting in [v. 4](#), the psalmist stops talking about God and starts talking to God. What does that tell us about his dependence on God's protection?
- Have you been through a dark valley? How did God's presence help you?
- As a shepherd's rod and staff comfort sheep, what about God comforts you?
- The psalmist's cup was filled to overflowing by God. By trusting in God's protection, his blessings were abundant. How has God filled your cup to overflowing?

III. God Takes Care of My FUTURE (Psalm 23:6)

"Verse 6 personifies God's covenant attributes of *goodness* and *lovingkindness*, picturing them as following the psalmist" (Longman). The word 'follow' can also be rendered 'pursuing'. So is the picture of goodness and lovingkindness acting like the Shepherd's sheepdogs, helping the Shepherd to keep the sheep going in the right direction. The psalmist concludes with "I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever". The house of the Lord back then was the temple. Although no one actually lived in the temple, it was where God made his presence known among His people. The psalmist thus proclaims that he will live in the light of God's presence forever.

- God's temple is no longer a building in Israel but is in the heart of Christians. How do we dwell in God's presence today?
- God's people gather together to form the church, which is sometimes called God's house. How connected are you to the church? Do you experience the presence of God there?
- How can God's goodness and lovingkindness lead you down the path of righteousness in your daily life?
- How can you share with someone else what it is like to have God as your Shepherd?

"Christians cannot read [Psalm 23](#) that explores God as shepherd of his people without thinking of Jesus Christ. After all, Jesus himself announced to his disciples, 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep' ([John 10:11](#)). Indeed, Jesus died on the cross to save his people from their guilt, sin and even death. He is the ultimate comfort in life and in death, and just like a shepherd, Jesus comforts his people by revealing, 'I know my sheep and my sheep know me' ([John 10:14](#); see also [Luke 15:4-7](#))." (Green)