

**SPEAKER:** Ryan Lingbloom

**DATE:** June 22, 2025

**SERIES:** Summer with the Shepherd

## **Sermon Title**

“The Lord is My Shepherd”

## **Introduction**

This week, we started a new series called “**Summer with the Shepherd**”. Throughout this series, we will be learning from Psalm 23 verse by verse to understand the significance of knowing and being known by our True Shepherd, Jesus Christ. We are also going to be journeying through the life of David, the author of this psalm, to see what God had done in his life to lead David to write something so profound. The summer is an easy time for things to fall by the wayside. Our schedules may get busy but we lose routine. We might get more free-time, but want to fill it with the wrong things. And it is easy for this part of the calendar to be a time where our faith gets put on the backburner. Through this series, however, the hope is that we focus on spending this summertime with the Shepherd, knowing more about Him and being known more by Him. To get started this week, answer this icebreaker question with your group:

- If you could spend the summer anywhere in the world, where would it be and why?

*Before going through the questions below, read the entirety of Psalm 23 aloud and then pray to get started.*

## **Seek the Word**

Reflect on Psalm 23:1 by answering the questions below:

- What does it mean for the Lord to be your shepherd? How does this imagery help you understand the relationship we ought to have with God and the role He has in our lives?
- When considering all of the displays of power and might and majesty performed by God in the Old Testament, how does it make you feel to know that this God –who parts the seas, tore down walls, sent fire from heaven, shut the mouths of lions– is also the God that we call OUR Shepherd?

Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13 aloud, then answer the questions below:

- How does God's perspective on choosing David challenge our own views on what makes someone qualified or important?
- Compare the postures of Samuel and Jesse in this story and how they responded to the Word of God. How do you find yourself emulating both of these individuals in your daily life?

Read John 10:1-18 aloud, then answer the questions below:

- How does Jesus' claim to be the Good Shepherd deepen your understanding of Psalm 23:1?
- This teaching from Jesus gives us more insight into what it means to be a sheep in the care of the Shepherd. Share with the group a time in your life where you have felt the care and protection of the Shepherd.

## Going Deeper

- When Samuel arrived in Bethlehem and met with the family of Jesse, David was left out in the field. He was alone, dirty, smelly, and doing work that did not hold high value or regard in anyone's eyes. But we see as the story continues that this "field" experience that David went through was part of the preparation God was doing in him for what was to come. Consider the "field seasons" in your life, where you might've felt stuck, invisible, like life wasn't moving fast enough, or you were undervalued. Looking back, how was God working in that time to prepare you for what was next, and what did that teach you about His character?

## Talk About It

- "Every voice we listen to shapes us". What are some of the voices in your life that you need to be more discerning about (name them specifically), and how can you prioritize listening to God's voice?
  - How do we go about listening to God's voice?
- How do you relate to David's story in 1 Samuel 16, and how does this story encourage you to view your current circumstances differently?
- This week, we were encouraged to not rush through our field season, but instead be developed and prepared *in* it. What practical steps can you take to embrace the field season you are in now and grow through it?

## Wrap Up

*Reminder:* Psalm 23 does not name the Lord as a shepherd. It doesn't name the Lord as *the* shepherd. David, the author of Psalm 23, names the Lord as *my* shepherd. That is how we ought to view our relationship with God, as personal and meaningful. In every season, especially in the quiet and hidden times, our Shepherd is there and working to shape and prepare us for His purposes. It is a blessing to be known and cared for intimately by God, and we get the opportunity this summer to embrace that relationship even more.

### *Challenge for the Week: Declare Him as Shepherd*

Each morning this week, before you start scrolling or reading or preparing for the day, before your feet even hit the floor, audibly declare Psalm 23:1 over you and your life: The Lord is *my* Shepherd. And as you view the field season that you are in or is ahead of you, be aware of how God's voice and Spirit is preparing you through it, and focus on listening for His voice.

*Prayer:* Close your group time by praying for one another, asking God to help each person recognize His presence and guidance in their current season. Pray for the courage to trust Him as the Good Shepherd, especially in times that feel like a field season.