



Summer in the Psalms

SONGS OF SUMMER, PART 4: THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

Life can often feel chaotic, uncertain, and exhausting. In a world that constantly pushes us to strive harder, perform better, and control everything, the image of a Shepherd quietly and faithfully leading His sheep is easy to overlook. Yet, Psalm 23 presents a radically different picture of God—not as a distant ruler, but as an intimate Shepherd who provides, protects, and personally cares for us.

When was the last time you allowed God to *shepherd* you—not just to believe in Him, but to let Him lead you, guide you, protect you, and provide rest? If you're tired, anxious, or wondering if God sees you? Then this Psalm is for you.

BIG IDEA: **You can trust the Shepherd.**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What comes to mind when you hear the word “Shepherd”? How does this image compare to how you often think about God’s role in your life?
2. you ever tried to hide something from someone—like a parent, a friend, or even God? What emotions did that experience stir in you?
3. *With your Bible or your Bible App, [read Psalm 23](#).*

A psalm of David.

¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need. ² He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. ³ He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name. ⁴ Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings. ⁶ Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever.

[Psalms 23 \(NLT\)](#)

4. Why is it significant that David didn’t say, “The Lord is a shepherd,” but rather, “The Lord is my shepherd”? What does it look like in your life to live as though God is your personal Shepherd?
5. In verse 2, David says, “He renews my strength.” Why do you think we struggle to let God lead us to rest and renewal?
What’s one area of your life where you need to stop striving and start trusting the Shepherd’s guidance?
6. Kim said that “leading” is done from the front (we watch), while “guiding” is often done from beside or behind (we listen). Which do you find easier—watching for God’s direction or listening for His guidance? Why?
7. In the old King James, verse 4 reads, “*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death...*” What “dark valley” are you currently navigating where you need to sense God’s closeness?
8. How does knowing that God is “close beside you” change your perspective in seasons of fear or uncertainty?
9. Kim explained that the **rod** was used for protection and correction, while the **staff** was used for guidance and rescue. Which of these do you feel you need most right now—God’s protection, His correction, or His guidance? Why?
10. In verse 5, what does it mean for God to bless you “in the presence of your enemies”? How have you experienced God’s abundance even in difficult seasons?

11. What does it mean that God's goodness and love are actively pursuing you? How does this change the way you view your relationship with Him—not as a God you must chase after, but as a God who is chasing after you?
12. Psalm 23 ends with the assurance of dwelling in the house of the Lord forever. What does it look like in your life to “stay with the Shepherd”? How can this group help you stay close to Him?

MOVING FORWARD

God is not just watching from a distance. He is actively leading, guiding, protecting, and providing for you. The Lord is YOUR Shepherd. You can trust Him. You don't need to figure it all out or carry it all yourself. Rest in His care. Let Him guide you to green meadows and still waters. Trust His rod and staff. Follow His lead, even in the valleys. He will pursue you with goodness and love all the days of your life.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

“The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.”

Psalm 23:1 (NLT)