



# Discipleship Guide

Sermon: Worship That Wars

Speaker: Pastor John Eric Zayas

Date: April 19th, 2026

## CORE THEME

*Worship is not passive—it is warfare. When we recognize Jesus as our Shepherd, we move from lack, fear, and striving into rest, provision, protection, and victory.*

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## KEY TRUTH

*“In Jesus, there is no lack—if the Lord is my Shepherd.”*

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## BREAKDOWN OF PSALM 23

### 1. Identity & Dependency (v.1)

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

- *Without a shepherd, sheep are vulnerable, anxious, and lacking.*
- *With Jesus as Shepherd, need is replaced by provision.*
- *The problem isn’t God’s provision—it’s whether we’re following His leadership.*

#### *Discussion Questions:*

- *What areas of your life feel like “lack” right now?*
  - *Are those areas fully surrendered to Jesus as Shepherd?*
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### 2. Rest & Renewal (v.2–3)

*“He lets me rest... He renews my strength...”*

- *God doesn’t just provide—He restores.*
- *We often chase more (status, money, validation), but God offers rest in abundance.*
- *Obedience leads to refreshing.*

#### *Key Insight:*

*Jesus is a giver, filler, and refresher—mind, body, soul, and spirit.*

#### *Discussion Questions:*

- *Where are you striving instead of resting?*

- *What would it look like to “move with Him” this week?*
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### **3. Presence in the Valley (v.4)**

*“Even when I walk through the darkest valley... You are with me.”*

- *Valleys are inevitable—but we are never alone.*
- *Sometimes our own decisions lead us into dark places—but God still shows up.*
- *Like the Shepherd who leaves the 99, He comes after you.*

**Key Insight:**

*Fear loses power when you realize God is present, not distant.*

**Discussion Questions:**

- *What “valley” have you walked through recently?*
  - *How did (or didn’t) you recognize God’s presence?*
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### **4. Protection & Authority (v.4)**

*“Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.”*

- *The rod (short) = defense & authority*
- *The staff (long) = guidance & rescue*
- *Symbolically: the cross is our ultimate protection and victory.*

**Key Insight:**

*What God holds in His hands is greater than what you face.*

**Discussion Questions:**

- *Do you trust God’s protection, or do you rely on your own?*
  - *What does it mean for you to be “comforted” by His authority?*
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### **5. Victory in the Presence of Enemies (v.5)**

*“You prepare a feast... in the presence of my enemies.”*

- *God doesn’t remove enemies—He demonstrates victory in front of them.*
- *Your peace becomes proof of God’s power.*

**Key Insight:**

*The battle may exist, but the outcome is already secured.*

**Discussion Questions:**

- *What “enemy” (fear, insecurity, opposition) is currently in front of you?*
  - *How is God inviting you to respond with peace instead of panic?*
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## **6. Anointing & Overflow (v.5)**

*“You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.”*

- *Oil represents protection, healing, and covering.*
- *God doesn’t just meet needs—He overflows blessings.*

**Discussion Questions:**

- *Where have you seen God’s overflow in your life?*
  - *Do you live with a mindset of scarcity or abundance?*
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## **7. Confidence in God’s Goodness (v.6)**

*“Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me...”*

- *We don’t chase God’s goodness—it chases us.*
- *Our future is not uncertain—it is secured in Him.*

**Discussion Questions:**

- *Do you truly believe God’s goodness is pursuing you?*
  - *How would your life change if you lived from that confidence?*
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## **GROUP ACTIVATION**

- *Pray specifically: “God, I need You here...” (name an area)*
- *Practice surrender: Identify one area where you will follow His lead this week*
- *Worship intentionally: Use worship as a weapon, not just a moment*

# 5-DAY DEVOTIONAL: WORSHIP THAT WARS

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## DAY 1: The Shepherd Removes Lack

Scripture: Psalm 23:1

When Jesus is your Shepherd, lack loses its authority. The world tells you to hustle, grind, and prove your worth—but God says, *“Follow Me and you’ll have what you need.”*

You don’t need more control—you need more trust.

Reflection:

- Where am I striving instead of trusting God?

Prayer:

“Lord, be my Shepherd in every area of my life. Teach me to trust Your provision.”

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## DAY 2: Rest Is Warfare

Scripture: Psalm 23:2–3

Rest is not weakness—it’s spiritual resistance against a culture of burnout. When you rest in God, you declare that He is enough.

God restores what life drains.

Reflection:

- What is draining me right now?
- Have I invited God into that place?

Prayer:

“God, restore my mind, body, and spirit. Help me rest in You.”

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## DAY 3: God Is With Me in the Valley

Scripture: Psalm 23:4

Even in your lowest moment, God is not absent—He is active and present.

The valley is not your destination—it's something you walk through.

Reflection:

- Where do I feel alone right now?
- Can I recognize God's presence there?

Prayer:

“Jesus, remind me that You are with me, even here.”

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## DAY 4: I Am Protected

Scripture: Psalm 23:4–5

God's protection is not fragile—it's complete. His rod and staff represent power, authority, and care.

The enemy may form weapons—but they will not win.

Reflection:

- What am I afraid of right now?
- Do I believe God is protecting me?

Prayer:

“God, I trust Your protection over my life. Fight for me.”

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## DAY 5: My Life Overflows

Scripture: Psalm 23:5–6

God doesn't just provide—He overflows. His goodness is not behind you—it's pursuing you.

Worship is the natural response to recognizing His goodness.

Reflection:

- Where have I seen God's goodness recently?

- How can I respond in worship?

**Prayer:**

“Thank You, God, for Your goodness and love. My life belongs to You.”

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## **FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT**

**Worship is not just singing—it’s surrender, trust, and alignment with the Shepherd.**

**And when you align with Him:**

- You lack nothing
- You fear nothing
- You walk in victory

**Worship isn’t passive.  
It fights for you.**