
AKA - SHEPHERD

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE  [Psalm 23](#)

1. A SHEPHERD _____

2. A SHEPHERD _____

3. A SHEPHERD _____

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: AKA – *God Has A Name For Every Situation*

Message: Part 1 - Shepherd

Speaker: Shawn Vandop

Date: February 6, 2022



Connect (25min)

*If helpful, break into groups of 3-4 or men & women to share and pray for *Connect*.

1. **3 ANIMALS 3 DAYS**

*You have to be 3 different animals for 3 days... >> 1 Aquatic Species, 1 Land Species, 1 Bird Species.

*What are your 3 Animals & why?

2. **OPEN UP** – 📖 Read [John 10:11-18](#). Respond with Praise to God & Prayer for One Another.

Message Discussion (45min)

1. **AKA – ALSO KNOWN AS**

a. Did you have a *Nickname* as a kid, or a current *Nickname*? What’s the brief backstory of the *Nickname*?

b. Besides “*God*” -- Which *Name* or *Names of God* do you use in your prayer or worship life with Him?

How did you come to learn or use those *Names*?

c. One God, Many Names -- Why do you think God has so many *Names* in the Bible?

2. **AKA: JEHOVAH ROHI** -- יהוה רעי -- **The LORD My Shepherd**

Psalm 23 may be the most well-known and beloved of all the Psalms. In it, David uses his experience as a shepherd to describe the many ways God shows his love for us. Every line conveys David’s confidence in God’s goodness now and in the life to come.

a. 📖 Read [Psalm 23](#).

*As you read, prepare to share which line of this Psalm resonates with you the most, and why. Share...

b. Why do you think this Psalm has such an impact on people?

c. What effect does it have on you to say that God is not just our shepherd, but “my shepherd”?

What difference does (or could) that distinction (your *personal* Shepherd) make in your daily life?

3. **PASTURES & WATER**

a. What meaning or application do the *pastures* and *water* represent in Psalm 23, and for us today?

b. What is one example of an area in your life where you struggle to trust the Good Shepherd?

c. Can you share a specific time when God ‘*made you lie down in green pastures or led you beside still waters*’? What effect did this have on your faith & life?

4. VALLEYS

- a. What is the meaning and application of *the valley, rod & staff* in Psalm 23, and for us today?
- b. Looking back, can you see a specific way or example of how God protected you during a time of trial —when you were walking through a dark valley? Explain.
- c. God’s rod offers us protection and his staff provides us guidance.
What forms have *the rod and staff* taken in your journey? Share 1 or 2 brief examples.
How are the gifts of God’s Word and Prayer key components of this?
- d. Are you walking into a valley, in the midst of one, or coming out of one?
- e. Do you ever ask God why you can’t just bypass the valley?
- f. Why do you think you’ve been led through certain valleys?
- g. What has God done or taught you in the valley that you wouldn’t have experience if you had stayed on top of the mountain? Does that experience make you more likely to trust God in the future?
- h. Have you experienced God’s presence more in *the valleys* or on *the mountaintops* of your life?

Application & Prayer (15min)


“Contentment should be the hallmark of my life, as I put my affairs in the hands of God. It takes some of us a lifetime to learn that Christ, our Good Shepherd, knows exactly what He is doing with us. He understands us perfectly.”

– W. Phillip Keller

WORD UP THIS WEEK

- Read, Pray & Memorize [Psalm 23](#) this week.
- Do you have a Bible/Devotional plan for February? (Share your Focus, Time, Location)
- Share as a group and encourage each other to spend time in God’s Word this month.

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER: *Break into groups of 3-4 or Men & Women for Prayer*

-  Read [Hebrews 13:20-21](#)
What is one thing you can do this week to actively respond God as your Shepherd?
Share with your group and then use it as a prayer point for one another.
- As you intentionally make the Lord your Shepherd, take time to pray each day this week that he will *“make you lie down beside still waters,”* relieve your stress, and transform your health.

RESOURCES

Scripture: www.openbible.info/topics/shepherd

Songs: **Psalm 23 - Shane & Shane* **The Lord Is My Shepherd – Jeremy Riddle* **Hills and Valleys – Tauren Wells*

Books: [The Power of God’s Names](#), Tony Evans. [The Names of God](#), Ann Spangler.

[A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23](#), W. Phillip Keller.