



Week 1: The LORD is My Shepherd

Pastor Stephanie Ehmke – August 30, 2026

Questions...

1. Psalm 23 is one of the most familiar passages in Scripture. What have you typically associated with this Psalm? Did anything from Sunday's message challenge or deepen your understanding of it?
2. The sermon breaks the opening phrase of verse 1 into three parts: "*The LORD*" — "*is my*" — "*shepherd.*" Which of those stood out to you most, and why?
3. "*The LORD*" points to a God who desires to be personally known, not simply known *about*. What is the difference between knowing things about God and actually knowing God personally?
4. David doesn't say "*The Lord is a shepherd*" or even "*The Lord is our shepherd.*" He says, "*The Lord is my shepherd.*" What does that small word *my* communicate about the kind of relationship God desires with us?
5. The message emphasizes that God knows His sheep personally: their names, strengths, weaknesses, worries, and dreams. How does being fully known by God bring you comfort? Is there anything about being fully known by God that makes you uncomfortable?
6. Shepherds marked their sheep as belonging to them, which led to the question, "*Do I bear the mark of Christ?*" What do you think it looks like practically for someone to be visibly "*marked*" as belonging to Jesus?
7. Sheep require a shepherd because they aren't particularly good at taking care of themselves. Why is it sometimes difficult for us to admit that we need someone other than ourselves to lead our lives?

8. The sermon says, *“We cannot lead ourselves and be led by God at the same time.”* Where are you most tempted to be your own shepherd—relationships, finances, career, family, future, decisions, control, something else?
 9. Think about a time when you *“went rogue”*—you chose your own direction rather than trusting God's leadership. Looking back, what did that experience teach you about yourself and about God?
 10. Of the three questions from Sunday, which one do you most need to wrestle with this week, and why?
 - **Is the LORD my shepherd?**
 - **Do I bear the mark of Christ?**
 - **Am I fully trusting the LORD to shepherd my life?**
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Closing Challenge

Identify one area of your life where you need to stop shepherding yourself and intentionally follow God's leadership this week.