



Week 4: He Restores & He Leads

Pastor Stephanie Ehmke – September 20, 2026

Questions...

1. **Read Psalm 23:3**

Before Sunday's message, what did the phrase "*He restores my soul*" mean to you? How does the picture of a shepherd restoring a *cast sheep* deepen or change your understanding of these words?

2. A sheep can become cast when everything seems fine, sometimes simply because it has become too comfortable. Why do you think seasons of comfort can sometimes be spiritually dangerous for us?
3. Sometimes we find ourselves "*flat on our backs*" because of circumstances outside our control; other times, our own choices put us there. Why can it be harder to receive God's help and grace when we know we contributed to the situation we're in?
4. The message emphasizes one important word in "*He restores my soul*" — **HE**. What does it mean to you that restoration begins with the Shepherd coming after the sheep rather than the sheep finding its own way back?
5. In Ezekiel 34, God promises His scattered people, "*I myself will search for my sheep.*" The message summarizes God's heart with the words, "***I will come for you.***" How does that picture of God compare with the way you tend to imagine Him responding when you wander or fail?
6. Sheep naturally return to the same paths until those paths become unhealthy ruts. What are some spiritual "*ruts*" people can easily fall into? Are there any familiar patterns in your own life that God may be trying to lead you out of?
7. The message also identifies complacency as one of the greatest hurdles in following Jesus. What's the difference between being comfortable in your relationship with God and becoming complacent in it?

8. Following the Shepherd sometimes means allowing Him to lead us into unfamiliar terrain. Why is it often easier to remain somewhere familiar, even when it isn't healthy, than to follow God somewhere we haven't been before?
9. The *Hacksaw Ridge* movie illustration repeatedly comes back to the words, “*You're gonna have to trust me.*” Where in your life might God currently be asking you to trust Him even though you can't see the whole picture?
10. The sermon ends with three areas of self-examination:
- Where have I become complacent in following Jesus?
 - Where am I resisting where Jesus is leading?
 - Where have I settled for “*good enough*” in my faith, rather than flourishing?

Which of these questions speaks most directly to you right now, and what step might your Shepherd be asking you to take?

Closing Challenge

Before ending your time together, finish this sentence...

“Good Shepherd, I trust You to lead me out of _____ and toward _____.”