



Week 7: Goodness & Mercy

Pastor Stephanie Ehmke – October 11, 2026

Questions...

1. **Read Psalm 23:6**

As we conclude our seven-week journey through Psalm 23, what has been the most meaningful or surprising thing you've learned about God as your Good Shepherd? Has anything changed in the way you understand or relate to Him?

2. David confidently declares, *"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life."* The message explains that the word *"follow"* in Greek carries the idea of pursuing or chasing after someone. How does the picture of God's goodness and mercy actively pursuing you change the way you think about His love?
3. The message reminds us that God's goodness and mercy are based on who HE is, not on who we are or what we deserve. Why is this distinction so important? How might our relationship with God change if we truly believed His love wasn't dependent on our performance?
4. David declares that he will *"dwell in the house of the Lord forever."* The message describes this as belonging to God's household or flock, continually under His care. How does knowing that you belong to God's family influence your sense of security, identity, and purpose?
5. Even when we believe God is good, there are seasons when His goodness and mercy are difficult to recognize. What makes it challenging to trust God's goodness during painful or disappointing circumstances? How can we learn to recognize His presence even when life doesn't feel good?

6. The sermon describes sheep as *“those of the golden hooves”* because, under the care of a good shepherd, they leave the land better than they found it. How does this illustration challenge the way we think about our responsibility as followers of Jesus? What might it look like to leave a positive spiritual impact wherever we go?
 7. One of the central questions of the message is *“What are we leaving behind?”* Think about your relationships, workplace, family, church, and community. Are you leaving behind peace or conflict, grace or judgment, encouragement or discouragement? Where might God be challenging you to make a change?
 8. Pastor Steph made this statement: *“To the extent that we appreciate God's goodness and mercy toward us is the extent to which we will extend it to others.”* Do you agree? Why is it sometimes easier to receive God's grace for ourselves than to extend that same grace to people who have hurt, disappointed, or offended us?
 9. Reflecting on the story of the Prodigal Son, presented last week, this week's message challenges us to recognize that sometimes we are the ones who don't want certain people welcomed at God's table. What attitudes or assumptions might keep us from extending the same extravagant love and acceptance that God has shown us? How can we guard against becoming obstacles to someone else's experience of God's grace?
 10. The message concludes with the beautiful picture of God's all-encompassing presence: **Before Us** (Psalm 23:1–3), **Beside Us** (verses 4–5), and **Behind Us** (verse 6). Which of these three pictures of God's presence is most meaningful to you right now, and why? How might remembering all three change the way you approach the week ahead?
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Closing Challenge

This week, intentionally consider this question...

“Because God's goodness and mercy are pursuing me, what goodness and mercy am I leaving behind for others?”

Encourage each person to identify one relationship or situation where they can intentionally demonstrate God's goodness and mercy this week.

“Thank God for His relentless love, His constant presence, and His faithfulness as our Good Shepherd. Help us become people who leave behind evidence of His goodness and mercy wherever we go.”