

FOLLOWING THE SHEPHERD

Psalm 23 | Feb 15, 2026

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

[Online Bulletin](#)

1. FaithKids Camp (VBS) Auditions; February 20 & 22
2. Family & Baptism Sunday; February 22
3. Worship Night; February 22
4. Men's Retreat; February 27-March 1
5. Single Women Connect; March 1
6. "True Girl" Mother / Daughter Event; March 6

INTRODUCTION:

Read our passage.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. David describes the Lord not as King, Rock, or Fortress, but as Shepherd. A shepherd walks closely with the sheep. He knows them, guides them, corrects them, and rescues them when they wander. Isaiah 53:6 reminds us "all we like sheep have gone astray." Why is the image of a shepherd especially meaningful? What does it reveal about God's nearness and care? In what ways do you see your own tendency to wander, resist, or self-direct? Does your heart genuinely desire to be led by the Lord?
2. "I shall not want" can also be translated, "I shall not lack." This does not promise luxury or ease, but sufficiency under God's care. Green pastures and still waters in David's world were not abundant everywhere, but survival in a dry land. Trusting the Shepherd often means believing provision exists even when the landscape looks barren. Exodus 20:17 warns against coveting. How does coveting expose places where we struggle to trust God? What desires are hardest for you to surrender? Where might God be asking you to

trust His leading instead of demanding your own version of green pastures?

3. David does not deny the valley; he declares God's presence within it: "You are with me." The Psalm shifts from speaking about God ("He") to speaking directly to Him ("You"). The comfort is not the absence of danger, but the presence of the Shepherd. What does the "valley of the shadow of death" look like in real life? How does God's presence change the way we walk through suffering? Why is it significant that David says "You are with me" rather than "You remove the valley"?
4. The rod protects; the staff guides. Both comfort the sheep. David, the author of this Psalm, was a deeply flawed man who knew both discipline and mercy. Yet he experienced restoration. Which is harder to accept—God's protection or His correction? How does repentance allow us to experience God as Shepherd rather than Judge? What does this Psalm teach us about God's commitment to restoring wandering hearts?
5. The imagery shifts from pasture to banquet table. God prepares a table, an image of intimacy, belonging, and victory. "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me... and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever." How does this movement from valley to table reshape your view of suffering? What does it mean that goodness and steadfast love pursue you? In what ways does the promise of dwelling with the Lord forever steady you in present trials?

BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

Prayer Focus: Pray for ongoing outreach and missions, people in our body, and for our leaders.

Personal Practical Application: What was the most significant truth God showed you through Psalm 23 this week? How can you actively trust Him as your Shepherd in a specific area of your life?