

Psalm 23:1
Sermon date: September 13, 2026

For NEW groups: Before you go any further, take the time to discover each other's name, ask why they joined a small group and list 5 facts about themselves.

Ice breaker

- 1) If you were a sheep in a flock, what's your personality: wanderer, cautious follower, the one always complaining, the one who never strays?

Unpack It

What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon and why? What was a takeaway or something that left you wondering about?

Historical Context (or just fun facts you may not know)

Elsewhere in Scripture, God is described as shepherd of the nation, of the whole flock of Israel (see Psalm 80, Ezekiel 34). Verse 1 personalizes that: David claims, individually, what had only been said corporately. In the ancient world, that's a strikingly intimate claim to make about the sovereign God of the universe.

The phrase ("I shall not lack") recalls Deuteronomy 2:7, where Moses reminds Israel that across forty years in the wilderness, "you have lacked nothing." David isn't making a naive promise that nothing bad will ever happen to him, he's grounding a personal claim of trust in his people's own remembered history of God's provision.

Diving In

Read together: Psalm 23

Diving Deeper

- 1) David could have said "a shepherd" or "our shepherd." Why does it matter that he says "MY shepherd" specifically?
- 2) Why might it matter that David, a literal shepherd before he was king, be the one saying this about God?
- 3) "LORD" here is God's covenant name (not just a title), tied to his rescue of Israel from Egypt. How does knowing the specific identity behind that title change how you read the rest of the verse?

- 4) "I shall not want" is a bold, almost absolute statement. What do you think it does mean, and, just as importantly, what do you think it doesn't mean?
- 5) Think back to your ice-breaker answer. Where in your life right now do you most need to know God is that kind of shepherd for you?
- 6) In what areas have you been trying to shepherd yourself: running the show, managing outcomes, instead of trusting God's leading?
- 7) Where is it hardest for you to actually believe "I shall not want" right now? What's the specific fear or lack you're facing?
- 8) Who or what have you looked to for security or provision instead of God? What would it look like this week to shift that trust back to him?
- 9) David could say this because of his own history with God, going all the way back to the shepherd fields. What has your history with God taught you about his care, even in hard seasons?

Closing It Out With Prayer

1. Invite each person to silently identify one area from tonight's discussion where they need to trust God as their shepherd: a fear, a lack, a place they've been trying to manage on their own.
2. Close together by praying Psalm 23:1 back to God as a shared declaration: someone reads it slowly aloud ("The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want"), and invite the group to receive it as a promise being spoken over them, followed by a short time of silence and then a closing "Amen."