

# Summer in the Psalms – Week 2

**Preacher:** Pastor David

**Focus Passage:** Psalm 23

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## Belong

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**If you could picture your personal "green pasture" right now – a place or activity where you feel most peaceful and refreshed – what would it be?**

***Leader Transition (Read Aloud):** Psalm 23 is one of the most well-known passages in the Bible—but its familiarity can cause us to miss its power. This week, Pastor David reminded us that it's not just about learning the Psalm—it's about knowing the Shepherd. These words were written for you, not just to memorize but to live by. Let's talk about what it means to truly belong to the Shepherd and trust Him through every part of life.*

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## Believe

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1. **Read Psalm 23:1.** What does it mean that the Lord is *your* shepherd, not just *a* shepherd?  
*Leader Note: This verse speaks to personal relationship—He knows me and leads me. It also promises provision: "I shall not want" means I will not lack anything I truly need because He is enough.*
2. **Read Psalm 23:2–3.** What kind of rest and restoration does the Shepherd provide, and why do we often resist it?  
*Leader Note: God brings peace and rest not just physically but spiritually. Often, we resist by trying to fix things ourselves or living in anxiety. He leads us beside still waters, not chaotic waves.*
3. **Read Psalm 23:4.** How does God's presence make a difference in hard times, even when the valley doesn't go away?  
*Leader Note: The valley is real, but fear doesn't have to be. God promises with-ness in the valley, not just escape from it. His "rod and staff" are tools of protection and guidance.*
4. **Read Psalm 23:6.** What does it mean that God's goodness and mercy pursue you?  
*Leader Note: It means God's kindness is not occasional—it's constant. Like the WWII orphan story Pastor David shared, even when we have what we need, God gives reassurance that He'll keep providing tomorrow.*

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## Become

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1. **What are you facing right now that makes it hard to trust the Shepherd? How does Psalm 23 speak to that situation?**  
*Leader Note: Encourage honesty—whether it's fear, uncertainty, loss, or anxiety. Psalm 23 reminds us we're never alone, and God's care is both tender and strong.*

2. **How can you actively follow the Shepherd's lead this week instead of going your own way?**

*Leader Note: Maybe it's spending time in the Word before making a decision, asking Him in prayer for direction, or slowing down long enough to listen. Following Him means trusting where He's already gone ahead.*