



**Sermon Discussion Guide**  
**Pizza & Wings: A Taste of the Familiar**  
**Week 4: Benefits of Being a Sheep**  
**Psalm 23 | June 14, 2020**

**Big Idea**

Psalm 23, in just six short verses, teaches us so much about how to have an intimate relationship with God - by leaning into Him during trials, admitting we are His sheep, and learning how to hear His voice.

**Opening Questions**

1. As we continue to think on the idea of “A Taste of the Familiar” are there any movies, shows, musical groups or genres that really bring back good memories or serve as a welcome break these days?

**General Sermon Thoughts/Questions**

1. What strikes you about the metaphor of “shepherd” for God and what it communicates to us about Him? The scriptures have many other descriptions of God as well - does thinking of God as our shepherd resonate with you? Is there another image of God that connects more with you? Explain.

**Key Scripture Questions**

1. Read **Psalm 23:1 (KJV)**. “...I shall not want.” What did Kristen point out about the meaning of the word “want” in context? What is the difference between “*wanting things*” and “*not lacking what you need*”? Do you think distinguishing this difference important? Why or why not? Have you ever struggled with a *want* not being met which impacted your faith negatively? Please share as you feel comfortable.
2. Read **Psalm 23:2-3 (KJV and NIV)**. The sermon identified that in these 2 verses we see four things that our Good & THE ultimate Shepherd provides out of His goodness. What are the four things we see that He provides? If it helps break down the reading of the verse as follows, 2a, 2b, 3a, and 3b to identify the four.
3. Philip Keller wrote, “A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23”, which was mentioned in the sermon, specifically where he mentions four things that sheep need to lie down. Can you recall any of the four and did any stand out to you? (Reminder of the four things if needed: safety; to know they are not alone; protected from parasites; and basic needs are met.) Can you as a human relate to these needs to truly rest? Is this something you struggle with?
4. **Psalm 23:3a** mentioned the restoring of our souls and conveys that God provides and is encouraging as it relates to our church’s mission of being a place where people can discover wholeness in Jesus. Have you experienced increasing degrees of wholeness in Jesus in your life? What has this looked like for you?

5. Read **John 10:3-5**. What does this communicate is the best benefit of admitting we are sheep and embracing it? How can we proactively tap into that, or put ourselves in a position to regularly enjoy such a beautiful benefit?

### **Application Questions**

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon &/or our discussion?
2. What is something God wants you to now do?
3. Beyond prayer for each other is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?

### **Prayer Time**

Slowly read **Psalm 23:6** to usher you into your prayer time. Then pray, "Dear Heavenly Father thanks you for the peace, comfort, and truth You have spoken to us through Psalm 23. We receive it and trust it. And we ask you that when we doubt the truth of Your good and perfect provision for us that Your Holy Spirit would lead us in ways of being reminded and reassured of it. Amen."