

Family Group Outline – February 1st, 2026

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MBC:

1. Our monthly Prayer Meeting is this Saturday at 8:30am in the Conference Room. All are welcome to come and pray!
2. Women of the Word meets this Saturday at 9:30am in the multipurpose room.
3. There will be a Kingdom Keiki Volunteers Training on Sunday, February 22nd, from 12:30pm-2pm. Lunch will be provided.
4. To prepare for the preaching of the word on this coming Lord's Day, we would encourage you to meditate on the passage ahead of time. This Sunday's sermon will be from 1 Corinthians 12:12-31.

WHAT WE BELIEVE: *Of the Perseverance of Saints* - We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. John 8:31; 1 John 2:27-28; 3:9; 5:18; 1 John 2:19; John 13:18; Matt. 13:20-21; John 6:66-69; Job 17:9; Rom. 8:28; Matt. 6:30-33; Jer. 32:40; Psa. 121:3; 91:11-12; Phil. 1:6; 2:12-13; Jude 24-25; Heb. 1:14; 2 Kings 6:16; Heb. 13:5; 1 John 4:4.

WISDOM: "Our heavenly father never takes any earthly thing from his children except he means to give them something better instead." - George Mueller

WORD: "The Lord Himself My Shepherd Is", Psalm 23

Suggested questions:

1. Read Psalm 23. Was there anything that particularly challenged, impacted, or confused you from this Sunday's message?
2. How does Psalm 23 comfort us in the midst of difficulties and suffering?
3. How does Psalm 23 correct our unbelief?

DIGGING DEEPER: The Lord, Our Shepherd

<https://learn.ligonier.org/devotionals/lord-our-shepherd>

The Lord, Our Shepherd

Ligonier

Undoubtedly, Psalm 23 ranks among the most well-known and beloved passages in the Psalter and, indeed, the entire Bible. This is not surprising given the comforting way in which it depicts the care of the Lord for His children. borrowing imagery from the ancient Near eastern vocation of the shepherd, this Psalm encourages confidence in our Creator. Shepherds were such a common sight in the ancient Near east that even the Gentile nations of the region used shepherding imagery to depict the guidance and protection their kings provided. The Israelites even spoke of their leaders as "shepherds" (2 Sam. 5:2; ezek. 34:23). However, passages such as Psalm 23 reveal that as important as such shepherds were for the care of God's people, they were no more than undershepherds who served the Chief Shepherd, the Lord Himself. This remains true under the new covenant (1 Peter 5:1–4). Psalm 23 opens with a revelation of God's abundant provision for His people. Verses 1—3 emphasize the comprehensiveness of our Father's care, encompassing both physical and spiritual needs. For those who love Him, God grants rest for body and soul, something David knew quite well because he was forced to rely on the Lord's care alone while fleeing from Saul and absalom (1 Sam. 21:1–9; 2 Sam. 17). This, of course, was in addition to the abundance David knew as Israel's king. Yet even those who never rise to such a high position and lifestyle can testify to God's care. John Calvin comments, "all men, it is true, are not treated with the same [generosity] with which David was treated; but there is not an individual who is not under obligation to God by the benefits which God has conferred upon him, so that we are constrained to acknowledge that He is a kind and [generous] Father to all his people."

David closes the psalm with the hope of his vindication before all, including his enemies, for he looks forward to the day when they will see him feasting in God's presence (Ps. 23:5–6). Just before this, however, he gives us a marvelous picture of the Lord's protection and guidance with his reference to the divine rod and staff (v. 4). In the ancient world, shepherds carried a rod to club predators and drive them away, and a staff to guide their sheep, to keep them in line lest they go astray. Such guidance could be painful to the sheep at times as they were poked and prodded to be kept on the straight and narrow. likewise, the discipline of the Lord can seem uncomfortable, but it is a comfort to us because, as Augustine writes, it shows that God is mindful of us.

In Psalm 8, David asks the Lord why He is so mindful of human beings, creatures who can seem so insignificant in comparison to the grandeur of the rest of creation. We should never fail to marvel that the self-existent and eternal Creator takes interest in us. He does so for the sake of His own name, for He has made us in His image. bearing this image is a distinct privilege and also a sober responsibility, so let us be thankful that God does pay attention to us and serve Him with gladness.

Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. ²He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. ³He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.