



November 16, 2025

Series: Week 3

Pablo Martinez

www.lebefree.org

“Following the Shepherd”

Psalm 23:1-6 (NIV)

Introduction: Psalm 23 isn't just a poem of comfort; it's a *call to activation*. When we truly follow the Shepherd, we stop being passive sheep and start walking in faith, provision, rest, peace, and mission. The Shepherd doesn't just care for us; He calls us to *move* with Him for the sake of His Kingdom as we also shepherd others.

I. The Shepherd – Activate Your Dependence on God.

Psalm 23:1 “The Lord is my Shepherd, I lack nothing.”

To activate your calling, you must first recognize who leads you. “I lack nothing” means that I should not want what I don't have, because I have everything that I truly need. In this sense we should stop chasing what the world promises, and instead, we should start trusting what the Shepherd provides.

Discussion Questions:

1. Where in my life am I still trying to lead instead of letting the Shepherd lead me?

II. He Leads Me and He Guides Me – Activate Your Direction from God.

Psalm 23:2-3 “He leads me ... to green pastures, to quiet waters. He guides me ... along the right path and refreshes my soul.”

God leads us and guides us to green pastures and to quiet waters because He's restoring our strength, our soul and body, to activate our direction for His mission and purpose in life. Let God interrupt your busyness to redirect and refill your life.

Discussion Questions:

2. What areas of rest or trust do I need to *activate* so I can serve effectively?

III. He Comforts Me – Activate Your Confidence in God.

Psalm 23:4 “... Your rod and Your staff they comfort me ...”

The Shepherd doesn't remove the valley; He walks with us through it. Shadows can't hurt you when you walk in the Light. Keep walking. Don't stop in your valley. Courage in dark times reveals the Shepherd to others who are afraid to follow. And as we walk throughout life, He will correct us; and correction is not rejection, but it's protection. The Shepherd's tools show His care. The rod defends; the staff directs. Stop resisting God's correction. Embrace it as proof of His love. Discipline activates maturity. A trained believer can be trusted with greater mission.

Discussion Questions:

3. How is God calling me to walk with courage even in my current “valley”?

IV. He Anoints My Head – Activate Your Pursuit of God’s Purpose.

Psalm 23:5-6 “... You anoint my head ... and I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever.”

Every believer is anointed for Kingdom purposes. You have The Shepherd with you, and God wants you to be a shepherd to others. His anointing protects, heals, and sets apart. Live daily, aware of your anointing. Don’t hide it. Activate it in service, love, and ministry. Anointing activates mission. The overflow from your life feeds others. In this sense, when you walk with the Shepherd, your life becomes a trail of blessing. God’s goodness doesn’t just follow; it *flows through* you as evidence of God’s kindness. Pursuit activates motion. When you walk in goodness and kindness, others will follow The Shepherd through your example.

Discussion Questions:

4. How can I use my anointing (my spiritual gifts, influence, and story) to advance God’s Kingdom this week?
5. Whom can I bless today so that goodness and kindness follow *through* me, not just *to* me?

Psalm 23:1-6 (NIV)

¹ The LORD is my Shepherd, I lack nothing.
² He makes me lie down in green pastures,
He leads me beside quiet waters,
³ He refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths
for His name’s sake.
⁴ Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil,
for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff,
they comfort me.
⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
⁶ Surely Your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.