

## Summary:

- **Psalm 23:6a - The Sheep's Inner Mind:** The sermon focuses on David's understanding of himself as a sheep and God as the good shepherd, particularly the phrase "Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life," exploring it from the perspective of a sheep's constant need and God's faithful provision.
- **Key Hebrew Words for Understanding:**
  - **Tov (Goodness):** This signifies more than just "nice"; it encompasses beauty, pleasantness, perfection, functionality, and usefulness, describing God's inherent nature and actions.
  - **Hesed (Love/Loving Kindness):** A deep, committed, never-leaving, fighting-for-you, covenantal love, illustrating God's unwavering faithfulness.
  - **Radhaf (Follow/Pursue):** This word implies an active chasing or hunting down, not merely a casual presence, highlighting God's relentless pursuit of us with His goodness and love.
- **David's Personal Experience of God's Pursuit:** David's life, from defeating Goliath and hiding from Saul to confessing his sin with Bathsheba, demonstrated his profound conviction that God's goodness and steadfast love were constantly with him and pursuing him.
- **Confidence in God's Pursuit (Four "S" points):**
  - **See the Lord work in all situations:** We can be expectant of how God's pursuing goodness is active in unexpected jobs, places, or interactions, even in small, personal moments.
  - **See Him in all seasons of life:** God's goodness and love pursue us through all transitions, from times of plenty to scarcity, sunshine to storms, and from moments of celebration to deep suffering and death.
  - **Share His goodness where He places us:** Just as sheep enrich the land they graze, we are designed to receive God's goodness and naturally share it, impacting the people and places around us.
  - **Say sorry and start again:** When we become overconfident, overlook God's goodness, or depend on ourselves, we can always repent and return to Him, trusting His pursuing love.

The sermon concludes by emphasizing that this constant pursuit by God's goodness and love is not dependent on our performance as "good sheep," but entirely on the grace of the "Good Shepherd," Jesus Christ, who laid down His life for us, making us worthy of His amazing and unwavering pursuit.

## Homegroup questions:

1. The sermon discusses the inner life of a sheep, which is full of needs and troubles, and the inner life of a dog, which is full of adoration. Which animal do you feel you're more like right now and why?
2. The words tov and hesed are used to describe God's goodness and love. Tov means God's goodness is beautiful, useful, and perfect. Hesed is a love that is faithful and never leaves you. When have you experienced God's tov and hesed in your life?
3. The Hebrew word radav means that God's goodness and love "follow" us, actively pursuing us like an army or a seagull after a person's lunch. How does it feel to think of God's goodness and love pursuing you in this way?
4. \* The sermon mentions that we can be "suspicious people" who look for how God is at work in all situations. Think of a recent situation in your life. How might God's goodness and love have been pursuing you in that situation?

5. Philip Keller, a pastor and shepherd, suggests that sheep eat in the green pastures and then fertilize the dry, higher ground. This is an analogy for how we can share God's goodness with those around us. How can our group or our church receive God's goodness and then share it with our local community?