

FIELD-TESTED SERMON RESOURCES

SERMON SERIES

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Thank you for downloading this sample PDF from our Sermon Series line of resources.

When you stand up in front of students to proclaim the Word of God, you need trusted, creative, and biblically solid content. YM360's Sermon Series are exactly what you're looking for!

Field-tested, from-the-trenches of youth ministry, YM360 Sermon Series are complete detailed sermon outlines, discussion questions, and graphic packages designed to help you lead students closer to God through proclaiming His Word.

SERIES OVERVIEW FOR GOOD VIBES ONLY: Walking Through Life With The Good Shepherd.

David tells us in Psalm 23 that the Lord is his shepherd, and that he lacks nothing. He says he lies down in green pastures and walks beside quiet waters. But what does all of that mean? How do David's words show us the goodness of God? Over the four sessions of *Good Vibes Only*, we will explore God's goodness by looking at examples of His goodness toward His people throughout history. We'll see in the Old Testament how He provided both physical and spiritual nourishment to His people. We'll also look through the New Testament to see how Jesus offers you and me that same goodness and provision today.

“GOOD VIBES ONLY” COVERS THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES AND PASSAGES:

- **Session 1 – I Shall Not Want (Psalm 23:1, Exodus 16) |** The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. That Scripture might sound familiar and even feel good to say, but what does it actually mean? We’ll see that even the Israelites who witnessed God’s miracles firsthand, still found themselves complaining about their circumstances and trying to figure things out on their own, but God had a better plan. God is the Good Shepherd and because He is good He will always meet our needs.
- **Session 2 – He Guides My Path (Psalm 23:2-4, 1 Samuel 16) |** He guides my path, but where? We’ll look at the life of David, the shepherd boy turned king. God is working out the details of who He has called David to be, even before he realizes it. God’s plan may not always be easy, but He has the plan and is with me through it all.
- **Session 3 – He Prepares a Table Before Me (Psalm 23:5, Matthew 14:13-21) |** Anyone hungry? Just as He did with the Israelites in the desert, when things seemed bleak, God is still providing for those in need. We’ll take a look at how Jesus, filled with compassion and with just a few scraps, feeds over 5,000 people with more than just food. We’ll see that even when things are tough, God always provides exactly what we need, when we need it.
- **Session 4 – Goodness and Love Will Follow Me (Psalm 23:6, Matthew 28:16-20) |** That sounds good right? To have goodness and love following you around forever and ever? We’ll take a look at the final message Jesus gave His disciples and the promise that He made to them, one that you and I can find hope in, too. Jesus promised to be with us forever and He doesn’t break His promises.

“GOOD VIBES ONLY” IS PART OF YM360’S SERMON SERIES LINE OF RESOURCES AND IS IDEAL FOR:

- Any large group setting
- Mid-week youth service
- “Master teacher” format

BACKGROUND SLIDES, PROMOTIONAL ARTWORK, AND MORE . . .

EVERY SERMON SERIES FROM YM360 COMES WITH:

- **Detailed Sermon Outlines** – Every Sermon Series comes with detailed sermon outlines. Teach them "as is" or adapt them to suit your specific ministry context.
- **Discussion questions** – Questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives. You can use these discussion questions to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go.
- **Title and Background slides** – These are designed to be dropped into your favorite presentation software to help you build a creative environment around your sermon. Use them as a backdrop for song lyrics, Scripture passages, teaching points, and any illustrations you choose to display.
- **Artwork for promo and social media** – Social media images, web banners, and a printable poster file are included. Perfect for newsletters, websites, social media platforms, or print them off for posters and bulletin inserts.
- **Logo (including native logo design files)** – We include a logo file and the native design files to allow you to use the logo in ways you see fit.
- **100% downloadable and adaptable**

Each YM360 Sermon Series comes with title and background slides, promotional art (including Instagram images), and logo treatments. Here is what to expect.

**BACKGROUND AND
TITLE SLIDES**



**PROMOTIONAL
ARTWORK**



**INSTAGRAM
IMAGES**



**LOGO
TREATMENT**



NOTE: Each YM360 Sermon Series also comes with the native files of the logo in case you want to replicate the design for other uses.

How To Use A YM360 Sermon Series | YM360 Sermon Series are designed for use by a communicator in a large group setting. Each series download provides various elements such as a detailed sermon outline, suggestions on illustrations or images, Scripture passages, background information, and application points that you can use to craft a message that speaks to *your* students in *your* specific ministry context.

This series download also includes discussion questions that can be used to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go. These questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives.

Make sure to leverage the series logo, title slide, background slides, and social media artwork this YM360 Sermon Series provides for promotion and message support. We've even included the native design files to allow you the freedom to use the logo in any way that meets your needs.

This YM360 Sermon Series was created to be suitable for all types of churches and ministry environments. It was intentionally designed to provide you with everything you need while also allowing you the freedom to make it fit your particular ministry context. Nobody knows your ministry like you do. Therefore, we encourage you to make any adjustments to this series you feel are necessary to best fit the needs of your students, church, or ministry context.

A Prayer Before You Prepare: God, thank you for your Word. That in the pages of Scripture, you reveal yourself to us. Thank you, God, that you don't withhold or hide but you have made yourself known so that we might delight in knowing you. As I read, study, pray, and illustrate to bring your Word to your people I ask you to lead me toward truth. Grow my love for you and for the people I will be sharing this with and God guide me as I write, edit, and prepare so that what is written is from you and for you. Ame

Good Vibes Only Sermon Series | Session 1: I Shall Not Want

Series Snapshot | *Good Vibes Only*, a four-session sermon series, will help your students realize the goodness of God all around them *and* in their own lives. God is all-good, all-powerful, all-loving— all the time. He shows His goodness, power, and love in our lives as He leads us and meets our needs, just like a good shepherd. Even in hard times or when we aren't seeing His goodness, He is there and He is working. There is no limit to God's goodness- we'll discover that through this series, *Good Vibes Only*.

Series Overview | David tells us in Psalm 23 that the Lord is his shepherd, and that he lacks nothing. He says he lies down in green pastures and walks beside quiet waters. But what does all of that mean? How do David's words show us the goodness of God? Over the four sessions of *Good Vibes Only*, we will explore God's goodness by looking at examples of His goodness toward His people throughout history. We'll see in the Old Testament how He provided both physical and spiritual nourishment to His people. We'll also look through the New Testament to see how Jesus offers you and me that same goodness and provision today.

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Good Vibes Only Series | Session 1

Large Group Teaching Summary | “The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.” A shepherd isn't just a protector of his sheep, he's also their provider. He makes sure they have water to drink. He makes sure they have food to eat. He watches over them to make sure any needs they have are met. So, if God describes Himself as our shepherd, we can have confidence that he is meeting our every need...even when we find ourselves in the deserts of life.

Key Takeaway | The Lord is our shepherd. Because He is good, He will always meet our needs.

Scripture Focus | Psalm 23:1; Exodus 16

What You May Need | *Optional Illustrations: Hungry Kids (Personal Story)*

I. Introduction

- A. We are going to start a brand-new series: *Good Vibes Only*. We hear it all the time these days, that people only want good vibes. We don't want anything bad or negative, we only want the things that make us feel good. Our perception of what is good is all that matters to us.
- B. So, let's start here...*what is good?* What makes something good? You go to a restaurant and have dinner with your family, and someone at the table says, "Oh man, that was a good meal." You say the food was good because it tasted good, it was presented nicely, and it filled you up. You go to a concert for a band or performer you like, because they have "good music". The vibe checks out, the lyrics speak to your life, and the music puts you in a good mood. Your teacher comes up to you after class and says you "made a good effort on that paper but...". There are so many ways we talk about something being good.
- C. Now, what comes to your mind when I say that GOD IS GOOD? Some churches even like to do this call and response while they're celebrating in worship, it goes like this: "GOD IS GOOD – ALL THE TIME" – "AND ALL THE TIME – GOD IS GOOD". Do you see God's goodness in your life? Does His guidance speak to where you feel you are in life? What does it mean that God is good to us all the time? That's what we're getting into today.

I. Tension

- A. Over these next few sessions, we are going to look at what it means that God is good. We are going to dig into Psalm 23 as our anchor passage, this is where we will start each session together and it will be a jumping-off point for us as we also explore different passages from the Old and New Testament that reveal His goodness to us and to discover that God's goodness in our life is all the good vibes we need.
- B. Go ahead and turn in your Bibles to Psalm 23. We're going to read the whole thing because I want you to remember what it says and commit it to memory. It might even be worth trying to memorize this passage throughout the series, so you can go back to it when you need a reminder of God's goodness in your life.
- C. Before we read Psalm 23, let's take a minute to get some background or context for what we're about to read. See the Bible is a book- but it's actually 66 books all compiled together. This means each book of the Bible has its own sort of purpose within the larger story, some books are from different genres like poetry, history, or epistles- which is a cool word for a letter. Understanding the context of each book within the Bible can help you and me to read it in the way it was intended to be read. This isn't all that uncommon even today. If I handed you a Dr. Suess book, a manual on how to wire the electrical components of an elevator, and a letter from your grandma or grandpa you would read each one differently- because you're supposed to. The same is true for the books of the Bible, so it's valuable to take just a few minutes to gain a little context and understanding about what you're about to read so you can receive it just as God intended.
- D. With all that said, the book of Psalms is a book of songs, that's actually what the word "psalm" means, it's a song or poem. Most of the psalms in our Bible were written by a guy named David, who we will learn more about throughout this series. But David is widely acknowledged as the greatest King in the history of Israel and God Himself called

Good Vibes Only Sermon Series | Session 1: I Lack Nothing

David a “man after my own heart”. Many of the Biblical psalms were written almost like David’s journal or diary. He would find himself in the middle of a situation, or just coming out of one and He would record his thoughts, feelings, or desires and mostly He would describe or talk to or about God. There are a variety of types of Psalms, sometimes they’re described in the section heading of your Bible, the one we’re reading for our time together, Psalm 23, is an individual psalm of Thanksgiving. David is giving thanks to God in this psalm for His goodness and we’re going to see why. Let’s read.

E. Read PSALM 23- ESV

1. *“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. Even 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. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”*

F. Look back at verse 1 – “THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD; I SHALL NOT WANT”. Right out of the gate, it tells us what God’s goodness means for us...the phrase “*I shall not want*” is a fancy way of saying WE LACK NOTHING.

II. Scripture

A. What does it look like to lack nothing? We are going to look over Exodus 16 and see how God’s provision always ensures that we lack nothing.

B. Now Exodus 16 happens not long after the Israelites have been rescued from their slavery in Egypt. Quick history lesson, God’s people, Israel, end up in Egypt because of a famine, but over the years become outcasts and are quickly turned into slaves serving the Pharaohs (essentially the kings or leaders over Egypt). They are stuck in bondage for many years until God sends a man named Moses (maybe you know Moses’ famous one-liner – “LET MY PEOPLE GO!!!”). God sent Moses to help rescue His people from slavery and to bring them into a land God set aside just for them- the Promised Land. God ends up delivering His people out of Egypt with an incredible show of power. But before the people can even make it into the promised land- yikes, plot twist. The people quickly forget what God did for them and the power He showed. They abandon their trust in Him and try to figure things out on their own. So He sends them to wander in the desert for many, many years, partly to learn what it looks like to trust Him.

C. Now that brings us to Exodus 16. God sends them into the desert, but also knows that they can’t survive without Him. So, he makes sure that the Israelites will lack nothing while they are searching for their own redemption.

D. Read EXODUS 16:1-5 ESV

1. *“They set out from Elim, and all the congregation of the people of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, and the people of Israel said to them, “Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this*

Good Vibes Only Sermon Series | Session 1: I Lack Nothing

whole assembly with hunger.” Then the Lord said to Moses, “Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.”

E. GOD ALWAYS MEETS THE NEED

1. Remember in Psalm 23, it says the Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. And these first few verses of Exodus 16 show us that when God provides, His people lack nothing.
2. I know being a shepherd isn’t a popular career path nowadays in most places but let me give you a little glimpse at what that job is. A shepherd looks after sheep, they might be his or they may belong to someone else. The shepherd protects the sheep herd from wild animals that would eat the sheep, he leads them the way they should go and is also responsible for feeding and watering them. Sheep don’t do well without food. They get restless, in fact, that’s typically when sheep will wander off, they are looking for food. They can’t lie down and be content if they haven’t been properly fed or given enough water. You and I aren’t much different.
3. **Optional Illustration: Hungry Kids**
 - a) **NOTE:** Share a story of someone in your life, or you, and how hunger affected their mood and attitude in a given situation. The goal is to show that our immediate needs can and do affect our mindset.
 - b) **EXAMPLE:** My daughters are like this. They can’t function without food. Rylie gets hangry. Have you ever been hangry or know what I mean by that? You are so hungry you get mad. You get frustrated easily and aren’t the easiest person to be around. But eat some goldfish or a waffle, and everything just kind of resets back to normal. Sophie is the same way, although she’s just a baby right now, when she’s hungry she tells you by screaming and crying until someone feeds her.
4. That’s exactly what’s happening here with the Israelites. They are kind of hangry and throwing a fit. They are whining that they don’t have enough food and that they had food in Egypt, so it would have been better to just stay there! Conveniently, they are also forgetting they had chains and forced labor with that food, but hey when you’re hangry you can get a little crazy.
5. Here we see God’s goodness because He knows exactly what they need at this moment. Food yes, but more so a reminder of his provision and goodness. They needed to know that He hadn’t abandoned them. They thought they needed food to fill their bellies, but what they really needed was God to fill them with reassurance that he was still there. God met that need both physically and spiritually.
6. If you don’t think that’s good, just imagine how you might have responded! I don’t think I would have had the patience that God shows here. He’s a good shepherd, even when we don’t deserve His goodness.

F. Read EXODUS 16:13-18 ESV

1. *“In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp. And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground. When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat. This is what the Lord has commanded: ‘Gather of it, each one*

of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer (and omer is about 2 quarts or 2 liters), according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent.” And the people of Israel did so. They gathered, some more, some less. But when they measured it with an omer, whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack. Each of them gathered as much as he could eat.“

G. GOD ALWAYS DOES ENOUGH

1. God is always going to meet our needs exactly as He sees fit. And, since He’s all-knowing and always good, we can trust that even if it’s not what we would have picked for ourselves it will satisfy our need- His goodness will always be enough.
2. The passage tells us that God provided two things for them to eat. The first he provided in the morning was something they called “manna”, which was this thin crispy type of bread. Funny enough, the word “manna” is actually similar to the Israelites' phrase for “what is it?”. God was literally dropping bread from the sky for them to gather up for the day and they were so amazed by the whole experience they called the stuff “what is it!?”. And at night, He was bringing in quail (a type of bird) for them to eat.
3. Key in on the instructions God gave them in verse 16 *“Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer, according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent.”*. **EVERYONE GATHER AS MUCH AS THEY NEED**. This is important to note because they weren’t rationing food. Like if you were stranded on a desert island with your family, and only had a little bit of food, you would have to ration it out and divide it up to make it last as long as possible. That’s not what God does here. He gives them everything they need for that day. It says the families who gathered much didn’t have too much, and those who needed little didn’t have too little. Everyone had just enough for their needs.
4. God, in His goodness, is always going to give the right amount of provision. He’s always going to meet our needs with *enough*. Not too much, not too little, just right. And notice also, that He gave them enough food for that day. This meant the Israelites had to depend on God every single day to get the nourishment and provision they needed. It kept them returning to God and trusting His goodness- receiving from Him.

H. Read EXODUS 16:19-21; 27-28 ESV

1. *“And Moses said to them, “Let no one leave any of it over till the morning.” But they did not listen to Moses. Some left part of it till the morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them. Morning by morning they gathered it, each as much as he could eat; but when the sun grew hot, it melted.* “
2. Remember earlier in verse 5, God said to gather double for day 7, this was so they could keep God’s day of rest holy, the Sabbath. Gather up double the bread and meat, so you can spend time resting with God on the Sabbath day. Now jump down to verses 27-28.
3. *“On the seventh day some of the people went out to gather, but they found none. And the Lord said to Moses, “How long will you refuse to keep my commandments and my laws?”*

I. GOD REQUIRES OBEDIENCE WITH HIS PROVISION

1. In His goodness He will always meet our needs, He will always provide enough of Himself for us just like He did for the people of Israel. That gift comes from God’s

love for us and His goodness for us. At times though, there are expectations that come with the blessing, maybe it's an expectation of how to use that blessing, or that you'd share it with others. We don't want to be selfish with the goodness of God in our lives.

2. God tells Moses to tell the people, don't be hoarders, don't gather up too much. Of course, like many of us probably would have done, they started to wonder "What if God doesn't do what He said He would do, what if He doesn't come through this time?". They didn't fully trust God and so tried to take matters into their own hands to meet their own needs. How many of us have done the same thing in our lives? But the thing was, the food only stayed good for that one day. The next morning it was covered in maggots and was rotten. They then disobeyed and quit listening again on the day when they were supposed to be resting, and found no food for them to eat or gather.
3. This was a lesson in trust and obedience for them. God said, I've got you. You are going to get this bread every day, but when I say stop, trust me and stop. God wants his people to fully trust in his goodness, trust in his provision and plan for their life, but they continue to get distracted, and continue to feel the need to be the boss of their own life. And they saw the consequences of it. What they thought they had rotted away and they were left looking for something else.

III. Application

- A. Have you ever felt that way? If you put your trust in something other than God, a relationship, an experience, a grade, a piece of technology, or a new car, and after a while, that thing loses its luster, then what are you left with? God's good provision doesn't wither away, it always satisfies.
- B. The people of Israel did that same thing. They chose to put their trust in the blessing of manna itself and hoard it, rather than putting their trust in the giver of that blessing- God. God gives you and me blessings in our life, too, and just like with the Israelites He expects us to be faithful with them. We tithe and give offerings at church, why? Because it's an act of trust and obedience to the God who gave us our finances in the first place. We help others in need, why? Because it's an act of sharing God's blessing and grace with others. When God gives us blessings or gifts or talents it's not typically meant to be hoarded or kept just for ourselves as if the blessing itself is the main thing. God gives us blessings so that we might know His goodness and so we might share it with others, trusting that His goodness will never run out. What will you do with the goodness that God has brought to your life?
- C. Here's the thing with all of this. God is pretty awesome. As you go about your life, you'll gather up story after story after story about all the things God has done in and around you. You can even see his goodness on display even when the things around you don't seem all that good. Think for just a minute and see if you can remember times when God provided exactly what you need exactly when you need it – and I'm not just talking about money or "stuff" – I'm talking about God providing even in intangible or non-material ways. Do you remember a time when He gave you joy in a hard season, or peace when you were anxious? Can you recall a time when he provided His presence in a time when you felt lonely or wisdom when you weren't sure what to do next? God meets our needs- all of them- completely, because He is good. I want to encourage you to take some time this week and write those things down- just like David, REMEMBER AND GIVE THANKS.

- D. God has already given us His best, He gave us Himself when His only son Jesus died for our sins on the Cross and was raised back to life and to make a way for us, you and me, to know and enjoy Him and His goodness forever.

IV. Gospel

- A. If you want to experience God's goodness in your life, if you want to be more aware of His provision, if you want to go through life with confidence like David, knowing that you lack nothing because your trust is in the Good Shepherd, it begins in a relationship with God. We all need a Savior in our lives, and His name is Jesus. He alone is the only One that is always good and always satisfies.
- B. I'm going to walk us through the story of the gospel, the good news that Jesus has rescued us and made a way for us. This is a story that you're a part of and if you've never heard it, I would invite you to listen and consider making this the day you accept Jesus as your Savior, your King, your Good Shepherd.
- C. When God created us and our world His plan and His design for it all was perfect. In fact, when God completed the creation of the whole world He declared that it was "very good!". Unfortunately, it didn't stay that way thanks to human sin. Maybe you've heard the word "sin" in church or tossed around someplace else before. At its most basic level, sin is choosing to do our own thing, rather than obey God's perfect and good design for the world and for our lives. It's choosing to live like we are God. This act of sin, or disobedience is like choosing to trust yourself and not trust God. It breaks the relationship that we are meant to have with Him and creates a distance in that relationship that we can't close on our own.
We have all sinned, and because of that, we are spiritually separated from God. And since God is the only source of true life, spiritual separation from Him means we're spiritually dead. If you have any hope for experiencing the full life that God designed for you, the life of joy and peace, full of love and purpose, the only hope for that comes in a relationship with Him.
- D. Because God is good, He knows that we need Him and He doesn't want us to be left alone, apart from Him. Hear that, friends. God knows you need Him *and* He wants you! So, in His infinite goodness and mercy, God the Father sent us a Savior named Jesus, God the Son. Jesus came to earth, lived a sinless life, and died a sacrificial death on our behalf to free us from the burden of sin. But the story doesn't end there! Jesus then rose again from the grave, showing that He is even more powerful than sin and death- the consequences or punishment for sin. And with that act of love and power, Jesus gave us access, He closed that relational gap that had been created by our sin and we can now experience what He calls a "full life" with God. Not a life of little, a life of nothing, or life of barely enough- a full life! Jesus offers us freedom from the need and pressure to run around and take care of all of our needs on our own. In Jesus, we have a Good Shepherd who knows us, sees us, and has the desire and power to meet all of our needs- because He loves us.
- E. All we have to do is acknowledge that Jesus is God's promised Savior, admit our need for Him, and repent of (turn away from/ask forgiveness for) the sin in our lives that separates us from God. It's by God's good grace through our faith in Jesus that we are forgiven of our sins and given eternal life in a relationship with God. When we begin that relationship, we begin a life of dependence on God and delighting in His goodness to us,

every day as He meets our needs.

- F. If you've never made that decision for your own life, I encourage you to do it today. We make choices every day about the things that will get our attention, devotion, time, thought, and love. Jesus is the only one worthy of all of that and He will never leave or abandon. If you want to make Jesus the Savior and King of your life, that means putting Him in the top spot. Then, as we grow in our love for Him, we will continue to give Jesus our focus, love, and attention, and will see His work in our life and His goodness all around us, every day.

V. Conclusion

- A. Doesn't that sound like a life worth living? Knowing that God is not far off, uninterested or powerless. He sees you, loves you, and invites you to experience all of His goodness for you.
- B. Hear this – if you have Jesus then you have all you need for life you don't have to strive, scrounge, lie, steal, cheat, or post and like and comment your way to fulfillment. In Christ you lack nothing as your Good Shepherd, He meets your needs. His goodness knows no end, His provision knows no end, His love for you knows no end. "THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD; I SHALL NOT WANT."
- C. I hope you'll come back for our next session as we go a little further into Psalm 23 to continue in our discovery of God's goodness. We'll see that God not only meets our needs in the present moment but also guides us down a path to future goodness, too. Let's pray.

Good Vibes Only Sermon Series | Session 1: I Shall Not Want

Series Overview | David tells us in Psalm 23 that the Lord is his shepherd, and that he lacks nothing. He says he lies down in green pastures and walks beside quiet waters. But what does all of that mean? How do David's words show us the goodness of God? Over the four sessions of *Good Vibes Only*, we will explore God's goodness by looking at examples of His goodness toward His people throughout history. We'll see in the Old Testament how He provided both physical and spiritual nourishment to His people. We'll also look through the New Testament to see how Jesus offers you and me that same goodness and provision today.

Large Group Teaching Summary | ““The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.” A shepherd isn't just a protector of his sheep, he's also their provider. He makes sure they have water to drink. He makes sure they have food to eat. He watches over them to make sure any needs they have are met. So, if God describes Himself as our shepherd, we can have confidence that he is meeting our every need...even when we find ourselves in the deserts of life.

Key Takeaway | The Lord is our shepherd. Because He is good, He will always meet our needs.

Scripture Focus | Psalm 23:1; Exodus 16

Good Vibes Only | Session 1 Discussion Questions

You can use these discussion questions to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go. These questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and consider how these Biblical truths impact their often complicated and ever-changing lives.

Get Them Talking | An Optional Opening Question To Get Students Talking

1. Ask your students what good things are happening in their lives right now. Did they ace a test at school? Did they win an award? Is their family getting along? Get them talking and thinking about the good things we have in life because of God's goodness. Nothing is too small to celebrate!

Discussion Questions

1. Read Psalm 23:1 What does this teach you about God? What does it teach you about yourself?
2. How does a shepherd care for their sheep? How does God care for you in
3. Read Exodus 16. When God led the Israelites into the desert away from Egypt, do you think it was hard for them to trust what God was doing at that moment? Why or why not?
4. What sorts of things make it hard for you to fully trust God in your day to day life? Is there something in particular that is difficult for you to trust God fully with?
5. Did God meet all the needs the people ask of Him in Exodus 16? What is your response when God doesn't meet your need in the way you think He should?
6. How does God's goodness shown to the Israelites give you hope that He will also be good to you?
7. Why is it important for us to be faithful with the blessings God has given us?
8. What is something good in your life that you can thank God for this week? How can you glorify Him with your gifts and talents?