

Summary

This sermon explores the theme 'from safety to risk,' focusing on how God provides security and peace not just for comfort, but to embolden and equip believers for service. Using Psalm 23 and passages about Jesus as the Good Shepherd, the pastor explains how God's intimate knowledge of His people allows Him to provide exactly what they need. The church is compared to a sheepfold and a NASCAR pit stop - a place of refuge and refreshment that prepares believers to go back out into the world to serve others.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss Your Word, we thank You for knowing us intimately and providing the peace and security we need. Open our hearts and minds to understand how You want to use that security to empower us for Your service. Guide our discussion and help us to hear Your voice clearly. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's your go-to comfort food or activity when you're having a rough day?

Key Verses

John 10:27-28

Psalm 23:1-4

Luke 4:18-19

Questions

How does knowing that God knows you personally impact your daily life?

What's the difference between seeking comfort for comfort's sake versus seeking comfort to be empowered for service?

In what ways does your church serve as a 'pit stop' in your spiritual journey?

How has God's peace enabled you to take risks in serving others?

What are some 'green pastures' and 'still waters' in your life that God has provided?

How do you recognize God's voice among all the other voices in your life?

What risks might God be calling you to take in service to others?

How does the assurance of eternal security in Christ affect how you live your life today?

Life Application

This week, identify one area where God has given you peace and security, and use that as a foundation to take a specific risk in serving others. This could be reaching out to someone in need, speaking up against injustice, or sharing your faith with someone who doesn't know Christ.

Key Takeaways

God knows us intimately and provides exactly what we need

The peace and security God provides are meant to empower us for service

Church is meant to be a pit stop that refreshes and equips us, not a permanent parking spot

God's presence gives us the courage to take risks in serving others

Our eternal security in Christ enables us to live boldly for Him

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for being our Good Shepherd who knows us completely and provides everything we need. Help us not to remain comfortable in Your security, but to use it as fuel to serve others boldly. Give us courage to take risks for Your kingdom, knowing that Your goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our lives. In Your name we pray, Amen.