

Discussion Guide

October 21, 2025

The Good Shepherd: Week 2

In Between Miracles

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Main Idea

Peace can be hard to hold onto—whether it's Houston traffic, a missing parking spot, stepping on a Lego, hearing "Mom!" a hundred times, or dealing with a snoring spouse, a losing team, or a doctor's diagnosis. Life is full of moments that test our calm because we live in a broken world with broken people. Yet Psalm 23:2 reminds us that God "makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside peaceful waters." We can't control what happens around us, but like David, we can choose to rest in the Shepherd who restores our souls. This week, let's talk about what robs your peace—and how to reclaim it.

Anchor Passage

"He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. " (Psalms 23:2, NLT)

1. He Lets Me.

Even in seasons when life feels heavy and chaotic, God invites us to find rest for our souls. True peace isn't found in perfect surroundings—it's found in surrender. Jesus offers rest that lifts the weight without letting it become heaviness. Every day, we have to choose to "put on peace," trusting that even if life feels like a shipwreck, we can still hold on to a broken piece and find calm in His presence.

Read Psalm 22:1-3; Matthew 11:28-30; Isaiah 61:3; Matthew 5:9

Discussion: When life feels heavy or overwhelming, what practical ways can you "put on peace" and rest in God's presence instead of letting the weight you carry turn into heaviness? How can you help others in their time of heaviness?

2. He Guides.

When you're in between miracles and can't see the way forward, the Shepherd still knows where to lead you. Just like sheep move with the seasons, God guides us through times of abundance and scarcity—but when we follow Him, we never lack what we need. No matter the season, peace comes from trusting His guidance and keeping Jesus at the center.

Discussion: How has God guided you through different seasons of life—both in abundance and in scarcity—and what helps you trust His direction even when you can't see the way forward?

3. He Leads.

Hearing from God requires intentionality—finding a place, setting an appointment, and creating an atmosphere where His presence is welcomed. Like David, we need God's voice in every step, especially in dark valleys where peace grows over time, not instantly. God prepares a table before us, but we choose who and what sits at it; what we feed—our pain or our faith—determines how clearly we hear His guidance and experience His peace.

Read 1 Chronicles 28:19

Discussion: What practices help you create space to hear God's voice, and how can you be more intentional about feeding your faith instead of your fears in the seasons when peace feels hardest to find?

4. He Renews.

Staying close to the Shepherd is where true safety and peace are found. Distance invites danger, but proximity brings renewal. Life may rob you of many things, but if you keep your faith and expectation anchored in Jesus, He will restore your peace. Don't let pride or fear keep you from being vulnerable before God—on your worst day, you can still have peace because Jesus is in the middle of it.

Read Philippians 4:6-7

Discussion: What are some signs that you've drifted from staying close to the Shepherd, and how can drawing nearer to Jesus help renew your peace and strengthen your faith in the middle of life's challenges?

If I have a past that's forgiven, I have a future that's worth living.

SUMMARY

Psalms 23 reminds us that peace isn't the absence of problems—it's the presence of the Shepherd. He lets us rest even in pain, guides us through every season, leads us with His voice when life feels dark, and renews us when we stay close to Him. No matter what life takes or how heavy it feels, we can

choose to “put on peace” each day by trusting His provision, following His direction, and keeping Jesus at the center. When we rest in His care, we find that even in the chaos, our souls can still be still.

CALL TO ACTION

Create Daily Stillness. Set aside a consistent time and place each day to rest in God’s presence—pray, read, and write what He speaks to you. Don’t rush the moment; let peace meet you where you are.

Follow the Shepherd’s Lead. Trust God’s guidance in every season. Whether life feels abundant or scarce, remind yourself daily, “I will not lack if Jesus stays the center.” Obey His direction even when you can’t see the full path.

Stay Close, Stay Real. Be intentional about your walk with Jesus—stay connected through prayer, community, and worship. Drop the mask, be honest about where you need peace, and let God renew your heart by drawing closer to Him.

GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

Six Word Memoir

Description:

To play this game, each member of your small group brainstorms six words that summarize their life, and then shares their Six Word Memoir with the group.

Because the activity limits each participant to six words, your participants’ choices in words invariably lead to questions about why these particular words stood out. Your group will come together to play this icebreaker game, while also discovering interesting insights about each other.