



CONNECT GROUP GUIDE

CG WK 17 The Whole Story Is He YOUR Shepherd?

Main Truth: You can't claim the Shepherd of Psalm 23 until you know the Savior of Psalm 22.

- Share about a time you felt truly cared for or protected.
- What did that mean to you?
- When you think of God, do you naturally picture Him as distant, harsh, or close and personal?

Psalm 22 – The Savior We Need

Read Psalm 22:1, 7–8, 16–18, 31.

David describes in detail the suffering that Jesus would face on the cross — 1,000 years before it happened.

Discussion & Application:

1. What stands out to you in these verses about Jesus' suffering?
2. How does Psalm 22 help you appreciate the cross in a fresh way?
3. Why is it important to understand the *bad news* of sin before we can truly appreciate the *good news* of salvation?
4. How would you explain Psalm 22 to a friend who doesn't yet know Jesus?

Psalm 23:1 – Making it Personal

Read Psalm 23:1 and John 10:11.

David says, "The Lord is *my* Shepherd." It's not enough to know *about* the Shepherd — we must personally know Him.

Discussion & Application:

1. What's the difference between saying "The Lord is a Shepherd" and "The Lord is *my* Shepherd"?
2. In what ways are we like sheep (weak, prone to wander, needing guidance)? Which of these is hardest for you to admit?
3. Where in your life do you struggle to surrender to Jesus as *Lord*, not just as a "helper"?

Psalm 23:2–3 – Provision & Restoration

Read Psalm 23:2–3.

The Shepherd provides rest, peace, and restoration. He gives what we need — not always what we want.

Discussion & Application:

1. Where do you need rest right now — physically, emotionally, or spiritually?
2. What is one area of brokenness in your life that you need the Shepherd to restore?
3. How can you intentionally slow down this week to let God refresh your soul?

Psalm 23:4 – Fear & God's Presence

Read Psalm 23:4.

Even in the valley of the shadow of death, we don't have to fear because He is with us.

Discussion & Application:

1. What's a "dark valley" you've been through (or are going through now)?
2. How has God's presence helped you face fear in the past?
3. What would it look like for you to trust His presence in your current situation?



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CG WK 17 The Whole Story Is He YOUR Shepherd? CONTINUED

Psalm 23:5 – Abundance & Anointing

Read Psalm 23:5.

The Shepherd prepares a table, anoints us with oil (symbol of the Holy Spirit), and overflows our cup.

Discussion & Application:

1. How have you experienced God's abundance even in a hard season?
2. In what ways are you currently experiencing the Holy Spirit guiding or convicting you?
3. Where do you need to trust God's provision instead of worrying about "not having enough"?

Psalm 23:6 – God's Pursuit & Promise

Read Psalm 23:6.

God's goodness and mercy pursue us daily, and He secures our eternity.

Discussion & Application:

1. What does it mean to you that God pursues you with love and mercy?
2. How does knowing your eternity is secure change the way you live today?
3. Who in your life needs to be reminded of God's pursuing love — and how can you share that with them this week (who is your one?)

Action Step:

- Share your testimony (like Psalm 23 to Psalm 23) with one person this week: what Jesus saved you from, and how He is your Shepherd now.

Announcement:

- Baptism Sunday is this Sunday (Oct 5). If this is your next step, please let Pastor Stanley know.

