



FUGE CAMPS  
TWENTY TWENTY-SIX

# *The* GOOD SHEPHERD

A STUDY OF PSALM 23

Church Group  
Time Guide

# *The* **GOOD SHEPHERD**

A STUDY OF PSALM 23

## **CREDITS**

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# The GOOD SHEPHERD

A STUDY OF PSALM 23

## INTRODUCTION

*Note from our writer, a former group leader:*

Church Group Time can be one of the most fruitful and impactful parts of camp. This is a time for your group to engage together, share and celebrate what God is doing at camp, and connect it to what can happen back home. So, despite it being at the end of the day—when a lot of people are worn out and tired—I encourage you to use this time well!

The following tips will help set up your Church Group Time as you prepare beforehand and each day:

- **Plan Ahead**
  - Expect Church Group Time to be of value and prayerfully set a plan.
- **Allow the Spirit to Lead**
  - Be attentive to the teachings, camp elements, and conversations with your students throughout the day.
  - Be prepared to pivot as God directs.
- **Work with Your Team**
  - Encourage input from your other chaperones (if applicable).
  - Find a time throughout each day to meet with your group of leaders and talk through the intended plan.
  - Lead a brief share time as adults to pray over God’s work in the lives of the students and their own.
  - Allow input about what they see and hear as the needs of your students—what they’ve found helpful in the past/what has worked well in their interactions.
- **Break Into Small Group Interactions When Needed**
  - If your group size and church group location permit, break up your group into smaller “family groups” based on gender, age, room assignments, and so forth. (Place a chaperone or older student leader to facilitate conversations.)
  - This allows more people to share what God is doing in a less intimidating setting.
- **Make the Time Work for Your Group**
  - Use this guide as that . . . a guide!
  - Select what fits, discard what doesn’t, rearrange the order, or create your own plan from it.



# *The* GOOD SHEPHERD

A STUDY OF PSALM 23

The following guides are set up to be used as a resource to assist your group throughout the week. Each day includes two or more of the following elements:

- **Group Connection (Daily Progression)**
  - Break the Ice (Opening Day)
  - Break Down Walls (Full Day 1)
  - Share the Story (Full Day 2)
  - Ground It to Home (Full Day 3)
  - Celebrate Life-Change (Full Day 4)
- **Reflect/Respond**
  - Familiar questions to unpack the day
- **Daily Theme Connection**
  - A more interactive option that highlights the FUGE theme for the day

Each of these sections can be used in a large group or smaller group setting as you choose. As always, feel free to use and reorder what fits your group best. Most days, you will likely want to choose between one or two of the elements.



# The GOOD SHEPHERD

A STUDY OF PSALM 23

## OPENING NIGHT — THE GOOD SHEPHERD

### Optional Supplies

- Index cards
- Pens

### Preparation

- Assign small groups.
- Give a set of supplies to each small group leader.

### Welcome

Welcome everyone to your first Church Group Time and explain the importance of this devotional time together.

Overview what the goals of Church Group Time will be:

- Take it seriously.
- Respect others.
  - Listen when others speak; don't talk over others.
  - Help everyone be involved; don't monopolize the conversation.
- Expect God to work through these conversations.

### FUGE Host

Allow your assigned FUGE Staff host(s) to share briefly.

### Announcements/Reminders

Cover any important details about the schedule, reminders, and so forth.

### Group Connection — Break the Ice (large or small group settings)

- If you decide to use small groups (family groups), break up everyone into their assigned designations.
- The group leader or family group facilitator needs to lead others through the following questions. (If in small groups, challenge each student to answer at least one of the questions.)
  - What was the most memorable part of your day? (These answers could be silly on the first/travel day.)
  - What is one thing you are most excited about for camp?



# The GOOD SHEPHERD

A STUDY OF PSALM 23

- What is one thing you are most nervous about for this week of camp?
- What is one thing you want this group to pray for you about throughout the week?

## Daily Theme Connection (large or small group settings)

- Pass out index cards and pens. (If you decide not to use these supplies, just have students reflect and respond verbally.)
- Read **Psalm 23** together:
  - <sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd; I have what I need.
  - <sup>2</sup> He lets me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside quiet waters.
  - <sup>3</sup> He renews my life; he leads me along the right paths for his name's sake.
  - <sup>4</sup> Even when I go through the darkest valley, I fear no danger, for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.
  - <sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
  - <sup>6</sup> Only goodness and faithful love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD as long as I live. (CSB)
- Ask students to write down at least one aspect of the psalm that resonates with them. Tell them to think about why it stands out as important.
- Encourage students to share their responses with the group.

## Closing and Prayer

- Say: **“This week, as we learn more about the Good Shepherd, I hope and pray that everyone will come to a new and deep understanding of Jesus as the Shepherd of our lives—whether that is for the first time or a renewed grasp. I pray that each of us would learn how complete His love is for us and how His leading is BEST!”**
- Share any final details or reminders needed.
- Lead family group leaders to pray over their groups for the week. (Or you could pray over the whole group.)

## Dismiss

- Dismiss students to the next scheduled time.



# The GOOD SHEPHERD

A STUDY OF PSALM 23

## FULL DAY 1 – THE GOOD PEACE

### Optional Supplies

- Index cards or half sheets of blank paper
- Pens

### Preparation

- Meet with adult leaders at some point in the day to talk through the plan for Church Group Time.
- Give a set of supplies to each small group leader.

### Welcome

Welcome everyone back to your Church Group Time and remind them of the importance of this devotional time together.

Introduce the “C Questions”

- Say: **“We will begin using a set of reflection questions to help you remember and respond to what God is working in you throughout the day or week. These questions are meant to make you think and share openly. I encourage you to be bold as you listen, reflect, and share with your group.”**
- C questions — As you think back on your day (Bible Study, Rec, Tracks, Missions, Worship, teaching, conversations, etc.), reflect on the following questions:
  - How has God **CHALLENGED** you today?
  - How has God **CONVICTED** you today about sin, lifestyle, behavior, or faith?
  - How has God **CALLED** you to make a specific decision?
- Explain that everyone will get a chance to answer these questions in a few moments.

### FUGE Host

Allow your assigned FUGE Staff host(s) to share briefly (optional).

### Announcements/Reminders

Cover any important details about the schedule, rules, and so forth.

### Group Connection — Break Down Walls (large or small group settings)

# The GOOD SHEPHERD

A STUDY OF PSALM 23

- If you decide to use small groups (family groups), break up everyone into their assigned designations.
- The group leader or family group facilitator needs to lead others through the following questions. (If in small groups, challenge each student to answer at least one of the questions.)
  - What was the most memorable part of your day?
  - What is something new you learned today (Bible Study, Track Times, Mission Site, Worship, etc.)?
  - What did you learn about God today (if not previously answered)?
  - What was today's theme and what did it mean?
- C Questions — As you think back on your day (Bible Study, Rec, Tracks, Missions, Worship, teaching, conversations, etc.), reflect on the following questions:
  - How has God **CHALLENGED** you today?
  - How has God **CONVICTED** you today about sin, lifestyle, behavior, or faith?
  - How has God **CALLED** you to make a specific decision?
- Ask: **“How can what you've learned today be applied specifically in your life?”**
- Allow time to discuss further, explore questions, and set times for follow-up conversations, as needed.

## Daily Theme Connection (large or small group settings)

- Pass out index cards/blank paper and pens. (If you decide not to use these supplies, just have students reflect and respond verbally.)
- What was today's theme? (*THE GOOD PEACE*)
- Ask students to write the word “PEACE” at the top of one side, and the word “CHAOS” at the top of the other side.
  - Say: **“Starting on the ‘CHAOS’ side, draw a picture that represents or reminds you of times of chaos in your life.”**
    - Allow a few minutes for the task to be completed.
  - Say: **“Now, flip the page over and draw what represents or reminds you of ‘PEACE’ in your life.”**
    - Allow a few more minutes.
- Encourage students to share and explain their responses with their family group. (If you're not using small groups, instruct students to partner up or form groups of three or four.)



# *The* **GOOD SHEPHERD**

A STUDY OF PSALM 23

- After allowing time for sharing, read **Philippians 4:7**:  
And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. (CSB)
- Say: **“God gives peace that SURPASSES all of our understanding. In times of chaos, in times of hurt, in times of confusion . . . His PEACE is there to uphold and secure us. As we remember from Psalm 23—God leads us by still/quiet waters and to green pastures—despite what else may be going on in our lives.”**
- Lead students to respond in groups to the questions: “How does that promise of God’s surpassing peace make you feel? How can it help you?”

## **Closing and Prayer**

- Say: **“The brokenness and hurt that we experience is ALL because sin has messed things up. Some is a direct result of your personal sin; some is from the general consequences of sin in the world. The only way to overcome a sinful world (and sinful self), is to be changed by the ONE who overcame sin. Jesus defeated sin to bring us perfect PEACE. I challenge you to lean into that this week. If you already have a relationship with Jesus, dive deeper into your relationship with Him. If you haven’t put faith in Christ, ask the questions you need to, seek the answers you might find, but please don’t let anything hold you back this week!”**
- Share any final details or reminders needed.
- Lead family groups to pray together with one student, or a few, leading. (If not using small groups, ask a student or adult volunteer to lead in closing prayer.)

## **Dismiss**

- Dismiss students to the next scheduled time.



# The GOOD SHEPHERD

A STUDY OF PSALM 23

## FULL DAY 2 — THE GOOD RESTORATION

### Optional Supplies

- Index cards or half sheets of blank paper
- Pens
- Two small puzzles with 25 pieces or so

(If you don't have this available, draw a simple picture or write a word on a piece of paper and cut/rip it into puzzle-like pieces. Examples: a cross, a person, your church name, the word "restoration," the words "The Good Shepherd," etc.).

### Preparation

- Meet with adult leaders at some point in the day to talk through the plan for Church Group Time.

### Welcome

Welcome everyone back to your Church Group Time and remind them of the importance of this devotional time together. Reiterate the rules for times when others are talking/sharing.

### FUGE Host

Allow your assigned FUGE Staff host(s) to share briefly (optional).

### Announcements/Reminders

Cover any important details about the schedule, rules, and so forth.

### Group Connection — Share the Story (large or small group settings)

- Say: **"One of the best parts of camp is getting to see and hear how God is changing lives throughout the week. An awesome thing in our group is that what happens at camp, doesn't have to stay here. As we share with one another, God's work in you could be what God chooses to use to impact someone else! I'd love for us to start off our time tonight by allowing some of you to share your story. Are there any decisions that were made in Worship or some other time throughout the day?"**
- Allow students who made new decisions to share with the group and celebrate together.
- Challenge others to share a quick testimony of how God changed them—this could be their testimony of salvation or may include something else that God has taught them. Remind the

# The GOOD SHEPHERD

A STUDY OF PSALM 23

group that sharing their story is one of the best tools they have for making an impact for the kingdom.

## Reflect and Respond

- If you decide to use small groups (family groups), break up everyone into their assigned designations at this time.
  - Option 1 — Continue sharing testimonies within the family groups. Encourage adult leaders to share too.
  - Option 2 — The group leader or family group facilitator should lead others through the familiar reflection questions or C Questions:
    - What was the most memorable part of your day?
    - What is something new you learned today (Bible Study, Track Times, Mission Site, Worship, etc.)?
    - What did you learn about God today (if not previously answered)?
    - What was today's theme and what did it mean?
    - How can what you've learned today be applied specifically in your life?
    - C Questions – As you think back on your day (Bible Study, Rec, Tracks, Missions, Worship, teaching, conversations, etc.), reflect on the following questions:
      - How has God **CHALLENGED** you today?
      - How has God **CONVICTED** you today about sin, lifestyle, behavior, or faith?
      - How has God **CALLED** you to make a specific decision?
- Allow time to discuss further, explore questions, and set times for follow-up conversations, as needed.

## Daily Theme Connection (large or small group settings)

- What was today's theme? (*THE GOOD RESTORATION*)
- Puzzle Activity
  - Select a few students to come forward and participate.
    - You can either have the students work together or compete against one another. (If competing, you will need one puzzle per team.)
  - Say: “Let's see if you can **RESTORE** this image.”



# The GOOD SHEPHERD

A STUDY OF PSALM 23

- If you make the puzzle yourself, you could choose to rip up the pieces in front of them for dramatic effect.
  - Give students an allotted time to complete the restoration puzzle.
- Say: **“Sin impacts every one of us, and apart from God, we are like broken pieces of a puzzle—scattered, incomplete. But God made a way for us to be whole again. He sent Jesus to restore us! Anyone who has been made new in Christ has a story of restoration!”**
- Ask students to pull out a notepad/journal to write on and something to write with. (If anyone doesn’t have a notepad, provide a piece of paper or an index card.)
- Say: **“We are going to make two lists. Divide your paper in two however you choose (front/back, draw a line in the middle, etc.)”**
- Instruct students to make the first list called “In My Brokenness.”
  - Students should make a bullet-point list of the sin, rebellion, and hurt that has marked their lives (either current or in the past).
- After some time, instruct students to make the second list called “In Christ.”
  - This list should be a bullet-point summary of how Jesus has restored them.
  - Allow a few minutes for the task to be completed.
- Say: **“For now, these lists are for yourself. We are not going to force you to share them with the group. For some of you, you may not have been restored through a relationship with Jesus, so your second list might be empty. My challenge to you all is to talk to someone about what you wrote tonight before our Church Group Time tomorrow. It can be someone from our group, from your Bible Study, a staffer, or whomever you choose.**

**“If you have been saved and found restoration in Jesus, share your story of God working in you. It might be what He uses to change someone else’s life.**

**“If you have not entered into a relationship with Jesus and don’t yet have a restoration story, I challenge you to talk to someone about that too. Maybe ask them to tell you more about what it means to be restored in Jesus—or maybe ask them to help lead you to a faith relationship with Him.”**

## **Closing and Prayer**

- Read **Psalm 23:3:**



# *The* GOOD SHEPHERD

A STUDY OF PSALM 23

He renews my life; he leads me along the right paths for his name's sake. (CSB)

- Say: **“God has a plan to restore you from sin. To renew your life. To lead you into righteousness for His name and His purpose. Let’s all lean into that together as we continue to seek to follow Jesus as our Good Shepherd.”**
- Share any final details or reminders needed.
- Invite a volunteer to close in prayer. (Option: Ask the staffer to lead prayer if they stayed with your group.)

## **Dismiss**

- Dismiss students to the next scheduled time.



# The GOOD SHEPHERD

A STUDY OF PSALM 23

## FULL DAY 3 – THE GOOD PRESENCE

### Optional Supplies

- Index cards, half sheets of blank paper, or blank “thank-you” cards
- Pens

### Preparation

- Meet with adult leaders at some point in the day to talk through the plan for Church Group Time.

### Welcome

Welcome everyone back to your Church Group Time and remind them of the importance of this devotional time together. Reiterate the rules for times when others are talking/sharing.

### FUGE Host

Allow your assigned FUGE Staff host(s) to share briefly (optional).

### Announcements/Reminders

Cover any important details about the schedule, rules, and so forth.

### Group Connection – Ground It to Home (large or small group settings)

- Say: **“God is doing great things! Are there any decisions that were made in Worship or some other time throughout the day that you would like to share about?”**
  - Allow students who made new decisions to share with the group and celebrate together.
- Next say: **“We know that camp is an awesome catalyst for God to work in us and prompt us for what He has next. We also know that real change won’t only happen here. God has each of us here to prepare us for His good work. And just as He has a purpose for each one of us this week, He has a plan for us back home. I want us to take time to think through some intentional ways to not stifle God’s work in us as we leave camp in a couple of days.”**
- If already using family groups, send students to their assigned groupings. If not, quickly gather them in small groups of five to six (separate adults too). Instruct them to make a list of ideas prompted from the following question (hand out paper/pens if needed):



# The GOOD SHEPHERD

A STUDY OF PSALM 23

- Based on what I'm learning this week, what are some specific and intentional ways we can put the truth of God in action when we are back home?
- Allow ample time for groups to work. Afterward, give groups time to share some of their ideas with the whole group.

## Reflect and Respond

- If time permits and you decide to use more time in small groups (family groups), direct family group leaders to facilitate through the familiar reflection questions or C Questions:
  - What was the most memorable part of your day?
  - What is something new you learned today (Bible Study, Track Times, Mission Site, Worship, etc.)?
  - What did you learn about God today (if not previously answered)?
  - What was today's theme and what did it mean?
  - How can what you've learned today be applied specifically in your life?
- C Questions – As you think back on your day (Bible Study, Rec, Tracks, Missions, Worship, teaching, conversations, etc.), reflect on the following questions:
  - How has God **CHALLENGED** you today?
  - How has God **CONVICTED** you today about sin, lifestyle, behavior, or faith?
  - How has God **CALLED** you to make a specific decision?
- Allow time to discuss further, explore questions, and set times for follow-up conversations, as needed.

## Daily Theme Connection (large or small group settings)

- Pass out index cards/blank paper and pens. (If you decide not to use these supplies, just have students reflect and respond verbally.)
- What was today's theme? (*THE GOOD PRESENCE*)
- Read **Psalm 23:4**:

Even when I go through the darkest valley, I fear no danger, for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. (CSB)

- Say: **“God is with us through the darkest times. He also puts people in our lives to walk with us through those times. Throughout the week, we’ve been reminding you that the**



# *The* **GOOD SHEPHERD**

A STUDY OF PSALM 23

things we learn and the ways we are changed while at camp shouldn't end here. God has us returning home in a few days for a reason and He has certain people there for a reason. Take a few moments and think of someone from back home that has walked with you through a dark time—someone who showed the love of God, exemplified God's peace, and helped represent His presence. This might be a leader, a family member, a teacher, a friend.”

- Allow students a few moments to think.
- Give students time to write a letter to the person who came to mind. They should thank them for representing the love and presence of Jesus to them and show appreciation for them being in their life. Tell them how you are thankful that God has a plan for them as well.
- Challenge students to keep the letter in a safe place and take it back with them to deliver. Or, if they'd like, they can ask you or another adult to hold it for them or even deliver it for them.
- Lead students to join their family groups to share and explain about how God has walked them through a dark time. (If not using small groups, instruct students to partner up or form groups of three or four, or ask a few students to share in the large group.)
- Remind students that sharing their own story can have a powerful impact on others.

## **Closing and Prayer**

- **“No person can ever fulfill what God can do. In our darkest times, we should turn to Him. In the dark times of life, remember that you are never alone! God is with you! And He has united us with other followers too! God works through people to accomplish what only God can fully accomplish.”**
- Share any final details or reminders needed.
- Ask a volunteer to close in prayer. (Option: Ask the staffer to lead prayer if they stayed with your group.)

## **Dismiss**

- Dismiss students to the next scheduled time.

# *The* **GOOD SHEPHERD**

A STUDY OF PSALM 23

## **FULL DAY 4 – THE GOOD LIFE (6-Day Only)**

### **Optional Supplies**

- Index cards or half sheets of blank paper
- Pens
- Poster board, cut in quarters (1 quarter per senior)
- Any other desired supplies for celebrating seniors

### **Preparation**

- Optional: Work with any graduated seniors to see if they will help lead parts of Church Group Time.
  - Each could share a “final challenge” or testimony.
  - Think of ways to pass on the torch in some way.
- Optional: Write the name of each senior on a section of poster board. This could also be on T-shirts, pennants, or other creative methods.
- Meet with adult leaders at some point in the day to talk through the plan for the night.

### **Welcome**

Welcome everyone back to your Church Group Time and remind them of the importance of this devotional time together. Reiterate the rules for times when others are talking/sharing.

### **FUGE Host**

Allow your assigned FUGE Staff host(s) to share briefly (optional).

### **Announcements/Reminders**

Cover any important details about the schedule, rules, and so forth.

### **Group Connection – Celebrate Life Change (large or small group settings)**

- Say: **“God is STILL doing great things! Are there any decisions that were made in Worship or some other time throughout the day that someone would be willing to share?”**
  - Allow students who made new decisions to share with the group and celebrate together.



# The GOOD SHEPHERD

A STUDY OF PSALM 23

## [Optional Senior Celebration]

- Next say: **“Tonight, we want to spend the majority of the time celebrating all that God is doing to change lives! One of those ways is through our graduating class. I’ve asked our seniors to share a word of testimony and challenge to you as they move on to a new stage of life.”**
  - Allow time for seniors to share with the group.
  - If prepared, invite students to sign/write a note on each of the poster boards for the seniors. (This could also be saved as the last activity to end the night.)
- After time is given, ask: **“Would anyone else like to share with the group any other decisions or commitments, words of encouragement, challenges, testimonies, and so forth?”**
  - Allow other students to share with the group.

## Reflect and Respond

- If time permits and you decide to use more time in small groups (family groups), instruct family group leaders to facilitate through the familiar reflection questions or C Questions:
  - What was the most memorable part of your day?
  - What is something new you learned today (Bible Study, Track Times, Mission Site, Worship, etc.)?
  - What did you learn about God today (if not previously answered)?
  - What was today’s theme and what did it mean?
  - How can what you’ve learned today be applied specifically in your life?
- C Questions – As you think back on your day (Bible Study, Rec, Tracks, Missions, Worship, teaching, conversations, etc.), reflect on the following questions:
  - How has God **CHALLENGED** you today?

# The GOOD SHEPHERD

A STUDY OF PSALM 23

- How has God **CONVICTED** you today about sin, lifestyle, behavior, or faith?
- How has God **CALLED** you to make a specific decision?
- Allow time to discuss further, explore questions, and set times for follow-up conversations, as needed.

## Daily Theme Connection (large or small group settings)

- Pass out index cards/blank paper and pens. (If you decide not to use these supplies, just have students reflect and respond internally.)
- What was today's theme? (*THE GOOD LIFE*)
- Read **Psalm 23:6**:

Only goodness and faithful love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD as long as I live. (CSB)

- Say: **“God as our Good Shepherd is not just an ‘at camp’ thing. It’s not just an ‘at church’ thing or a ‘with certain people’ thing. It’s an ‘all of your life’ thing. It’s a commitment to follow Him *with* all your life AND *for* all the days of your life.”**
  - Allow students a moment to think on this concept.
- Then continue: **“Is that representative of you? Is Jesus your Lord? Is He your Good Shepherd? Are you following His lead and walking in His presence ALL the days of your life?”**
- Read **John 10:10-11**:

<sup>10</sup>“A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance. <sup>11</sup>I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” (CSB)

- Say: **“Jesus came so that you may have abundant life! It’s a good life found only in His peace, His presence, His restoration.”**



# *The* GOOD SHEPHERD

A STUDY OF PSALM 23

- Instruct students to take their index card/paper and write down words that represent what areas of their life that they need Jesus to take control of.
  - Areas of darkness or chaos
  - Sins, actions, or behaviors that have a hold on them
  - Family or life circumstances
  - Relationships
- After adequate time is given, spend time as a group praying together that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, would lead us to overcome and follow Him in each of these areas.
- Instruct the group to hold their cards out in front of them as a symbol of handing them over to God.
- Allow several people to voice a prayer (students and adults).
- Designate one person (or yourself) to close in prayer.

## **Closing and Dismissal**

- Share any final details or reminders needed.
- Dismiss students to the next scheduled time.