



## SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“PSALM 23” ON JUNE 30 AND JULY 3, 2022

### CONNECT

How did last week’s passage we read/discussed affect your week?

### DISCOVER: PSALM 23

- What did the passage say (in your own words) or what impacted you/did you take away from the sermon this week?
- How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?
- Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn’t understand, phrases that didn’t make sense, etc.)?

**PSALM 23: This psalm, written by King David, describes God as the Shepherd of His people, demonstrating what God is like by using a metaphor David was very familiar with – that of a shepherd caring for his sheep. Isaiah 53:6 tells us that we all, like sheep, have gone astray – we are sheep in need of a shepherd! Here in Psalm 23 David describes the LORD as that Shepherd who provides for, protects, and pursues His wayward sheep. Left to our own devices, we like sheep can end up in difficult and even dangerous situations! However, in David’s psalm we find rest, comfort, and confidence in the care of our Loving Shepherd!**

**THE LORD IS MY PROVIDER:** Psalm 23:1-3 Through Scripture we can follow David’s life and see how God had provided for him as he journeyed from shepherd to King of Israel and beyond. In his sermon, Matt shared different observations about both sheep and shepherds which help us understand how David had seen God’s provision.

- Matt described how sheep refuse to rest until they are free of fear, tension and aggravation, and hunger. How can you see that played out in your own life patterns or of those around you? What does ‘He makes me lie down in green pastures’ look like in your life right now?
- ‘He leads me beside still waters’ – who or what is leading you as you move through each day and each decision? Are you more like a sheep who first seeks the easiest, quickest place to ‘quench your thirst,’ or do you first seek the leading your Shepherd wants to provide?
- In what ways IS the LORD your Provider, breathing life into you when you need restoration?

**THE LORD IS MY PROTECTOR:** Psalm 23:4-5 David describes God as the Great Protector from evil, danger, and enemies, even mentioning the tools of the shepherd – the rod and staff. He also gains strength from God’s presence WITH him!

- Think of the things in your life that could potentially cause you harm or pain....how do you handle those fears? Can you, like David, set aside those fears knowing God is with you?
- What was the function of the rod and the staff for a shepherd? How did David find comfort in those things?
- Today we have even more than the rod and the staff – we have the entirety of God’s Word to direct and lead us, and the Holy Spirit living inside us as our Comforter and Guide! How do you find protection and comfort in both of those ‘tools,’ and how are you using those tools to guide you through each day?

**THE LORD IS MY PURSUER:** Psalm 23:6 God pursues us, even when we run away from Him; He went so far as to send us His Son to redeem us from our sin and to give us eternal life with Him!

- How does verse 6 give you confidence that God is pursuing your best interests now and for the future?
- Read Jesus’ words in John 10:1-21. What confidence do His words give you as Jesus describes His role as your Shepherd, after having discussed Psalm 23?



CHURCH

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

## SERMON STUDY GUIDE CONT.

### RESPOND

- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God's Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

### PRAY

... for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.