



# SMALL GROUP



## CATCHING UP

- Has anything new or exciting happened in your life since the last time we gathered?
- What was one blessing and trial you experienced this week?

## SCRIPTURE

### *Isaiah 48: 16-19*

*“Come near me and listen to this: “From the first announcement I have not spoken in secret; at the time it happens, I am there.” And now the Sovereign LORD has sent me, endowed with his Spirit. This is what the LORD says—your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: “I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go. If only you had paid attention to my commands, your peace would have been like a river, your well-being like the waves of the sea. Your descendants would have been like the sand, your children like its numberless grains; their name would never be blotted out nor destroyed from before me.”*

## STORY BEHIND THE HYMN

Pastor Joseph Gilmore intended to speak on the 23rd Psalm during a Wednesday evening service at his church. As he reflected on that Psalm, the words “He leadeth me” kept coming to his mind. (Psalm 23:2). (Psalm 23:3). After the Wednesday evening service, Pastor Gilmore went to Deacon Watson’s home for refreshments and conversation. While there, the words, “He leadeth me,” continued to come to his mind. He took out paper and pen and quickly jotted the words to the hymn that we know and love. He handed the paper to his wife, and quickly forgot about it. Without consulting him, his wife

submitted his verse to a publication called *Watchman and Reflector*. They published it without his knowledge. Several years later, Gilmore was preaching at a church in New York, so he pulled out a hymnal to see what they would be singing. The hymnal opened to the hymn, “He Leadeth Me” — his own hymn. He said of the incident, “That was the first time I knew that my hymn had found a place among the songs of the church.”

## DIVING DEEP

- Have you ever written something down and forgot about it, only to discover it later?
- The writing of this hymn is only half the story. It was his wife who took made them famous. Who are people you have helped you do greater things than you might have by yourself?
- What is God’s consistent message in this scripture reading?
- What has their history of rebellion and ignoring God cost the people?
- How do these verses show that God’s concern for his people has not changes since the exodus?
- Is it always easy to follow God? When could it be difficult?
- Do you feel God leading you now? To where? And how do you know God is where you’re being called?

## CONCLUSION

- What are some things we can be doing for each other in this upcoming week - prayer requests or actual things?