

# PSALM 23

*He Leads Me Beside*

Sermon-Based Study Guide  
Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church  
Psalm 23.2 | June 28, 2020

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## I. Introduction to this Study

Our summer series in Psalm 23 continues as we reflect on what it means to be *led by the Good Shepherd beside quiet and still waters...*

Interesting fact: a shepherd never takes a sheep out to pasture alone – a flock is always assumed to be with a shepherd. Psalm 23's focus, however, is on the individual – David is reflecting on his personal journey with his shepherd.

Let us do the same as we continue to reflect together on the wondrous ways the Good Shepherd cares for our deepest needs!

## II. Connecting with One Another

When you think of still, quiet waters – does a place or image come to mind?

When you are walking or on a hike, do you like to be out front or following a leader?

Have you ever lost your way or as some may say, “been temporarily disoriented”? What has helped you get back on track?

## III. Study the Text

- a. The shepherd takes the sheep out onto the hillside to graze in the morning, but after a morning of grazing the sheep need to drink. The shepherd must plan their day around the availability of water in the middle of the day.

- b. Take a moment to read **John 4.1-15**. This is a powerful passage with so much to explore – but for now – let us focus on the theme of physical and spiritual thirst/water...

What time of day is it when Jesus stops for water?

What are you constantly “thirsting” for? How has Jesus satisfied you?

A physical need opens the door for a conversation about a spiritual need. Living Water – In the Old testament living or running water was a figurative reference to divine activity (**Jeremiah 2.13; Zechariah 14.8**).

What is the cost of the living water to us?

Jesus contrasts temporary with eternal satisfaction, teaching that all earthly pleasures, even if legitimate, are fading. What other spiritual truths can we discover from Jesus in this encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well?

- c. What “green pastures and quiet waters” has the Lord brought you to experience lately?
- d. The good shepherd “leads me; he does not drive me.” Sheep know the voice of their shepherd and are eager to follow. Thoughts? **John 10.27** What are examples of some other voices that are calling our name?
- e. Learning from testimonies of Middle Eastern shepherds, “Sheep cannot be watered at places where the water is swift.” How does this bring further depth to your understanding of “*He leads me beside quiet waters?*”



**Read Mark 4.35-41 // Mathew 8.23-27.** What's Jesus doing here beyond quieting the waters? Where else in scripture are waters quieted or calmed?

- f. What can get in the way of Jesus leading us? And you, personally?

Each day the shepherd leads the flock to where it can rest. Why is trusting in Jesus alone to provide that rest so difficult at times?

What troubles and challenges in your life are currently keeping you from experiencing true rest in the green pastures and quiet/still waters Jesus has in mind for you?

- g. Reflect on Eugene Peterson's translation of Psalm 23.2 before you take time to pray together: *You have bedded me down in lush meadows, you find me quiet pools of water to drink from.*

#### IV. Pray

- a. Pray for a refreshment and rest from the Lord for your soul. How can others in your group be supporting you in prayer?
- b. Ask God to open your heart and hands towards His leading in your life.
- c. Be still...think and reflect how you have been, "Blessed to be a blessing to others..."

