



Sermon Discussion Guide for Groups

“The Goodn Shepherd”

Preached by Jon Egan

August 17th, 2025

Summary

Have someone in your group read the following summary aloud.

In this sermon, Pastor John Egan explores Psalm 23, focusing on the metaphor of Jesus as the Good Shepherd and believers as sheep. He emphasizes that when we recognize Jesus as our shepherd, we can experience true peace and rest rather than stress and anxiety. The sermon highlights four requirements that must be met for sheep to lie down in peace: freedom from fear (outside threats), freedom from friction with others (inside threats), freedom from pests (distractions), and freedom from hunger (basic needs being met). Pastor Egan explains how the Good Shepherd meets each of these needs in our lives, creating green pastures even in wasteland situations, and how being in His hands means we lack nothing.

Key Passage | Psalm 23:1-6

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

Opening Prayer

Open your session in prayer, using the words below or your own

Heavenly Father,

as we gather to discuss Your role as our Good Shepherd, we invite Your presence into our conversation. Open our hearts to receive the truth that in Your hands, we lack nothing. Help us to recognize areas where we're striving in our own strength rather than resting in Your care. May this time together deepen our understanding of Your love and provision, and may we leave with a renewed sense of peace that comes from knowing whose hands we're in.,
Amen.

Getting Going

Allow time for each member to answer the following questions before moving on.

What's the most peaceful place you've ever visited, and what made it feel so peaceful to you?

Discussion Questions

Answer as many of the following questions as time and interest permit.

1. Pastor John mentioned that 'the Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing' is one of the most audacious statements in scripture. Why do you think this is such a bold claim, and what might it look like to truly live as though you lack nothing?
2. How does recognizing yourself as a sheep (dependent, in need of guidance) change your perspective on your relationship with God?
3. Of the four requirements for sheep to lie down (freedom from fear, friction, pests, and hunger), which one resonates most with your current life situation and why?
4. How might viewing your challenges as 'wastelands' where God can create 'green pastures' change your approach to difficult situations?
5. Pastor John shared a story about his guide retrieving his lost map. Is there something in your life that feels lost that you need Jesus to help you retrieve? What might that process look like?

Making It Personal

Take the opportunity noted below to apply this week's sermon to your every day life

This week, identify one area of your life where you're experiencing fear, friction, distraction, or unmet needs. Instead of trying to solve it yourself, intentionally invite the Good Shepherd into that situation. Each morning, take 5 minutes to visualize yourself lying down in green pastures with Jesus watching over you. Throughout the day, when anxiety or stress arises, pause and whisper, 'The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.' At the end of the week, reflect on how this practice affected your peace levels and your ability to rest in God's care.

Key Takeaways

Commit to memory one point from the message before you dismiss.

- When we recognize Jesus as our shepherd, we can experience true peace rather than stress, even in challenging seasons.
- The four requirements for sheep to lie down (and for us to find rest) are: freedom from fear, freedom from friction with others, freedom from pests/distractions, and freedom from hunger/unmet needs.
- The shepherd doesn't just find green pastures for us - He can create them even in wasteland situations when we trust Him rather than taking matters into our own hands.

- The oil of anointing (representing the Holy Spirit) protects us from harmful influences that try to enter through what we see and hear.
- The Good Shepherd cares about what we've lost and is willing to go back with us to retrieve it.

Closing Prayer

Have someone from your group close you time in prayer, using the words below or your own.

Good Shepherd, we thank You for Your tender care and constant presence in our lives. Thank You for showing us that in Your hands, we truly lack nothing. Help us to recognize when we're striving in our own strength rather than resting in Your care. This week, may we experience the freedom that comes from being free from fear, friction, pests, and hunger as we trust You to meet our every need. Create green pastures in our wasteland situations, anoint our heads with the oil of Your Spirit, and help us retrieve what has been lost. May we walk forward in the confidence that Your goodness and love will follow us all the days of our lives. **In Your powerful name we pray, amen.**