

- Peace in the Shepherd's Presence-

Ice-Breaker:

If you could be led to any peaceful, relaxing place for a day of rest and renewal, where would you go, and why?

Discussion Questions:
Read Psalm 23:1, John 10:11

1. What comes to mind when you think of a shepherd? How does this metaphor impact the way you understand God?

2. Jesus says the good shepherd "lays down his life for the sheep." What does this statement reveal about the depth of Jesus' love for His followers?

Read Psalm 23:2, Matthew 6:31-33

3. What do "green pastures" and "quiet waters" represent in this verse? How do these images evoke peace and rest?

4. In Matthew 6:31-32, Jesus tells us not to worry about our needs because our Heavenly Father knows what we need. How does trusting in God's provision change the way we approach life's challenges and our daily worries?

5. Jesus says, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you" (verse 33). What does it mean to "seek first His kingdom"? How do you prioritize God's kingdom over worldly concerns in your life?

Read Psalm 23:3, Matthew 11:28-29

6. What is the connection between spiritual refreshment and guidance in this verse?

7. Jesus invites the weary and burdened to come to Him for rest. What do you think it means to be "weary and burdened"? What kinds of burdens do you think people today are carrying?

8. How does the invitation of Jesus offer a different kind of rest than what the world offers?

Application:

Discuss what it is you can do to strengthen your relationship with your Shepherd. (i.e. seek God, be in tune with his will, be his conduit to the world, and give of yourself to others)