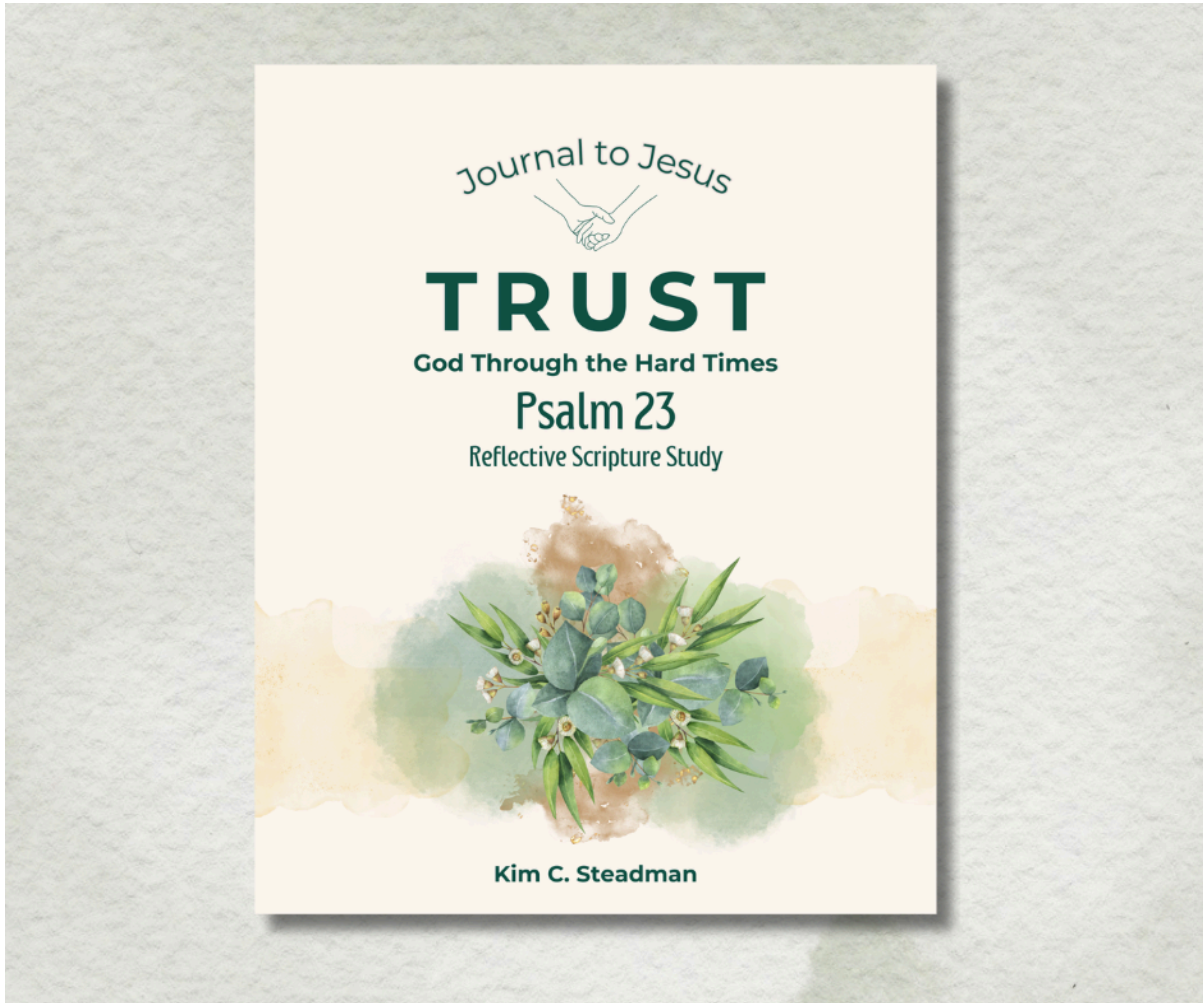


Psalm 23 Journal to Jesus Leader's Guide for
Weekly Group Discussion



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Welcome, Group Leader!

Thank you for guiding this group through the scripture study journey. This guide has been created to support you in facilitating meaningful discussions each week, as participants gather to share their insights, experiences, and personal reflections. Here are a few guidelines to help you get the most out of this leader's guide:

Prepare in Advance

Before each group meeting, spend time reviewing the weekly scripture and going through the study activities yourself. This will allow you to lead with personal insights and give you a deeper understanding of what the participants have experienced.

Review the discussion prompts in this guide and choose the questions you feel will resonate most with your group. Feel free to adapt or add your own questions based on the needs and dynamic of the group.

Create a Welcoming Environment

Aim to foster an atmosphere of openness and trust where everyone feels comfortable sharing. Encourage participants to speak honestly about their thoughts and reflections without fear of judgment.

Ensure that group members have time to share, but also be mindful of keeping the discussion on track.

Be a Facilitator, Not a Teacher

Your role is to guide the conversation rather than teach or provide all the answers. Encourage participants to listen to one another and explore how God may be speaking to them through the scripture.

Encourage a balance of contributions, ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to share. If someone is more reserved, invite them to contribute by asking open-ended questions, but don't pressure anyone to speak.

Focus on Personal Application

This study is designed to help participants connect the scriptures in Psalm 23 with their daily lives. As you guide discussions, encourage participants to reflect on how the weekly focus scripture is speaking to their personal situations, challenges, and spiritual growth.

Be open to sharing your own experiences, as this will encourage others to do the same.

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Allow Time for Creativity

The study includes creative journaling prompts, such as drawing or writing songs. Encourage participants to embrace this creative reflection as a unique way to engage with the scripture. Allow time for participants to share their creations and reflections on how the creative process deepened their understanding.

Stay Flexible

While this guide provides a structured outline, every group is different. Feel free to adapt the flow of discussion based on what the Holy Spirit is leading you to explore or the energy and insights of the group. If certain parts of the discussion take longer or spark deeper conversation, don't feel rushed.

Pray Together

Begin and end each gathering with prayer. Pray for wisdom, understanding, and unity as the group explores scripture together. Encourage participants to pray for each other throughout the week.

Encourage Accountability and Support

Remind participants that this study is a journey, and everyone is growing at their own pace. Encourage group members to check in with one another during the week for support and accountability in their personal study and application.

By following this guide, you will help create a rich environment for spiritual growth, meaningful connections, and deeper engagement with scripture.

Thank you for your dedication and leadership!

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Opening Prayer (2 minutes)

Leader Prompt: Begin with a prayer, asking for wisdom, understanding, and openness to the scripture.

Scripture Concentration (5 minutes)

Leader Prompt: Take a poll of the room to determine three different translations, and read them.

Key Words or Phrases (5 minutes)

Leader Prompt: Ask the group to discuss the words or phrases they highlighted for further study.

- What specific words or phrases did you note?
- How did these words shape your understanding of the scripture?
- What deeper meanings or insights did you gain from these words?

Personal Paraphrase (10 minutes)

Leader Prompt: Encourage sharing of rewritten versions of the scripture.

- How did rewriting the scripture in your own words change your understanding?
- What personal or unique perspective did you discover?
- Were there any new insights about the scripture's relevance in your life?

Days 4-6: Application Prompts (15 minutes)

Leader Prompt: Invite participants to share how they began applying the scripture to their lives.

- What were the key journaling prompts that resonated with you this week?
- Did you face any challenges in applying the scripture?
- How did this scripture speak to your current life circumstances?
- Did the journaling prompts encourage any new ways of thinking or actions?

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Creative Reflection (15 minutes)

Leader Prompt: Facilitate sharing of the creative expressions.

- Did anyone create artwork, poetry, a song, or any other creative expression based on the scripture?
- How did engaging with the scripture creatively deepen your connection to it?
- Can anyone share what they created and how it impacted their spiritual journey this week?

Group Aha Moments (5 minutes)

Leader Prompt: Open the floor for any final reflections, takeaways, or "aha" moments from the week's study.

- What did you learn that surprised you?
- How did this week's scripture transform or challenge you?

Closing Prayer (2 minutes)

Leader Prompt: Conclude the discussion by praying over the group, asking God to solidify the lessons learned and continue working through the scripture in each person's life.