

## **STUDY GUIDE: “CHRISTMAS PEOPLE: Shepherds”**

### **Discussion Starters**

1. Name one way shepherds care for their sheep.
2. Do you see shepherds as good, bad, or neutral?

### **Study**

3. Read the following passages. What do these passages tell you about the Shepherds?

Psalm 23

Luke 2:8-20

John 10:11

John 10:14

4. Summarize what you learned from these passages.

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To complete the next section of the study guide, you will need to use a Bible Dictionary. Remember, the words listed below are from the NASU, but the word you are trying to define is the Greek or Hebrew word translated by the NASU—NOT the English word. If you have any questions about how to use these tools, contact your group leader or one of the pastoral staff.

5. Define the following words or terms. Note how they help you understand the meaning of the text, or if you are unable to understand the significance of the word.

--“quiet waters” (Psalm 23:2)—

--“valley of the shadow of death” (Psalm 23:4)—

--“rod” (Psalm 23:4)—

--“staff” (Psalm 23:4)—

--“terribly frightened” (Luke 2:9)—

--“heavenly host” (Luke 2:13)—

6. EXTRA CREDIT: How are shepherds different today than they were in the first century? What difference does this make?

**Taking It Home**

7. How do you need to respond to the Lord this Christmas more like the shepherds?

8. What characteristic of the shepherds would most honor the Lord in your life?