

# Creative Craft – Responding to God’s Word

Preparation for Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 1.15pm-approx. 2.30pm

## A Reflection on Psalm 23

- A couple of days before the session, read Psalm 23. It’s a well-known passage, but hopefully we will come at it from a fresh angle. Most of us have not tried a visual response before.
- You should now have a couple of days to think about what images this brings to mind. You may have pictures of quiet streams with trees beside them, as I do. Maybe the shepherd imagery is powerful to you, or the amazing vision of dwelling in His house forever. There are many possibilities here. You may be sent towards some other verses in the Bible or perhaps to a particular worship song. There are several songs this passage brings to mind. If you have time, you could listen to a few on You Tube. Ask God to inspire you. Make a note of anything that particularly strikes you. Remember: you’ll get more out of the session, if you have prepared.
- Decide whether you want to do collage (easy and anyone can do it), your own artwork, just write out the words in pretty colours, print the passage and doodle around it, use rubber stamps, die-cuts or stencils, or just sit and knit while pondering on the passage. We all did very different things when our Connect group tried it. **Basically, there are no rules.**
- If you want to do a collage (or need inspiration for personal artwork), collect pictures from magazines, brochures, newspapers or print off the internet. Let God take your imagination in whatever direction. Feel free to go with the flow.
- If you do your own artwork, you have the copyright. If you use other images, you need to be mindful about copyright. There are some websites with free to use pictures:

[1.9 million+ Stunning Free Images to Use Anywhere - Pixabay](#)

[Freely Photos | Free Christian Stock Photos](#)

[Beautiful Free Images & Pictures | Unsplash.](#)

There is also this free resource, which may be of use to some of you:

[Sheep Bible journaling pages final \(garmentsofsplendor.com\)](#)

If you are sharing your work more widely, e.g. on Facebook, attribution may be required for the above. If you are making limited personal use of most images, anything not being shared around is probably not going to be an issue. There is a chart regarding copyright (search “Can I use that picture?”) for anyone with concerns.

- If you want to use a printed part of the text, print it out beforehand. Make it large enough to read, maybe use a fancy font. I separated out the verses and stuck them in different places on my page. If you have no printer, you’ll have to get busy with a pen!
- On the day, you will need a large sheet of paper or a large page of a journal. Pens, scissors and glue are probably essential for most people. If you want to unleash the full-blown artist in you, have paints, chalks, stencils, stamps, decorative items etc. at the ready.
- Don’t worry about artistic skills, anyone can do collage, doodle or just write words or verses. If you have a blank sheet of paper at the end, or have only just written down a couple of words, it doesn’t matter. Remember this is meant to be relaxing, not stressful.
- There is no pressure to share your work at the end, but feel free to do so, if you want. You may not have finished it in the time, and that’s fine.
- I plan on saying a lot less this time, as most of you seem to have very good ideas about what to do. We will probably have about 40 mins work time. If anyone hasn’t done this before and feels the need to ask for help ahead of the session, feel free to contact me. Look Rachael Ironside up in the church list. (I can honestly say I’m no expert though!) We are all just exploring and enjoying a new approach to God’s word.
- Enjoy the experience! Have a relaxing afternoon and enjoy being in God’s presence.