

## **“The Joy of Jesus the Good Shepherd”**

By  
Andrew Kooman

**What** Christmas often reminds us of the people in our lives who we miss, some who have gone astray. With joy we remember the words of David in the Psalms that Jesus is our Good Shepherd, who brings us back to God. That’s why he came! Part of the “Christmas with the Psalms” series, this easy-to-produce reading is for two readers. It will bring your service alive in a special way this Advent.

Themes: Advent, Hope, Readers Theater, Christmas, Psalms, Redemption, Community, Duet

**Who** Two Readers, male or female.

**When** The Present

**Costumes** Age appropriate, no distracting logos, necklines, or hemlines

**Props** A candle and a lighter.

**Why** Psalm 119:67, Isaiah 53:6, Psalm 23, John 10:14

**How** **If you are reading for an online service**, read it with passion and emotion, and don’t be afraid to take your time. Look at the audience or into the computer camera. Ensure all your notifications are turned off and emails are closed and have the PDF on screen near the camera.

**If you read the script from the pulpit**, be familiar enough with your lines so that your head isn’t down in the script the entire time. Look audience members in the eye. Take time to pause and breathe. Embrace the awe and mystery of the scripture.

**Time** 2-3 minutes

*Lights up. The **Readers** address the audience directly.*

**Reader 1:** If a pilot is off course by one degree, as a passenger, you may not notice it at first.

**Reader 2:** Say you take off from a big airport, like LAX–

**Reader 1:** At take off you'd see all the same things, no matter where you're heading.

**Reader 2:** The Pacific Ocean for miles below.

**Reader 1:** Then the beautiful stretch of sand that is Long Beach.

**Reader 2:** On a clear day you might get a glimpse of Catalina Island. Everything looks good. Off you go on your adventure!

**Reader 1:** But if the course the pilot sets is off by even a few degrees –

**Reader 2:** ...you'll land at a totally different destination.

**Reader 1:** Not good.

**Reader 2:** Nope. You thought you were flying to New York.

**Reader 1:** But even with a slight deviation, you'll land in a totally different Destination — five hundred miles off target.

**Reader 2:** Instead of landing in The Big Apple, where you thought you were going, you'd end up in Detroit.

**Reader 1:** Go Tigers!

*"Christmas with the Psalms: The Joy of Jesus the Good Shepherd"*

**Reader 2:** Speaking of baseball, if you take your eye off the ball, you miss the mark.

**Reader 1:** It's so easy to get off track.

**Reader 2:** It's so easy to go astray.

**Reader 1:** At Christmas, we often hear the famous verse from the prophet Isaiah.

**Reader 2:** He doesn't call us pilots with the wrong coordinates.

**Reader 1:** He calls us all sheep who have walked off the path, gone astray.

**Reader 2:** Thank God for the Good Shepherd.

**Reader 1:** David gets real about this fact of human life in the Psalms.

**Reader 1:** There's a reason he went astray. Simply put, it's because he didn't keep God's word.

**Reader 2:** "Before I was afflicted," he admits, "I used to stray off, but now I keep your instructions."

**Reader 1:** When we take our eye off of God's word -

**Reader 2:** We quickly miss the mark.



**Reader 1:** But with joy we can declare that the Lord is our shepherd.

**Reader 2:** Jesus, our Good Shepherd, came to point out the way.

*"Christmas with the Psalms: The Joy of Jesus the Good Shepherd"*

**Reader 1:** At Christmas we celebrate that God sent His Son to us to lead us and guide us.

**Reader 2:** Jesus came to bring us back onto the right path.

**Reader 1:** He is our Good Shepherd who brings back his wayward sheep.

**Reader 2:** Jesus is the Word of God who we can follow to get back on the right path.

**Reader 1:** He guides us back into his loving presence.

**Reader 2:** Jesus brings us, and the wayward sheep we love, back home.

**Reader 1** holds up the candle. **Reader 2** lights it with the lighter.

**Reader 1:** Today as we light this candle of Advent, we are filled with joy that Jesus is our Good Shepherd.

**Reader 2:** We remember that we have all gone astray, but he has put us on the right path.

**Reader 1:** Jesus has returned us to God.

**Reader 1:** God, we ask that the joy of your redemption would fill our community and transform us. Amen.

*Lights down.*