

## Shepherding Responsibilities of a Small Group Leader

### 1. **Know your sheep.** "I am the Good Shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me." John 10:14

- Know the names of the members of your group.
- Be aware of their families.
- Know the schools their kids attend.
- Know what service they usually attend.
- Understand where they're at spiritually.
- Keep updated group attendance.

### 2. **Feed your sheep.**

"I will feed them in a good pasture, and their grazing ground will be on the mountain heights of Israel. There they will lie down on good grazing ground and feed in rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I will feed My flock and I will lead them to rest,' declares the Lord God." (Ezekiel 34:14–15)

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside quiet waters." (Psalm 23:1-2)

"Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."  
Matthew 4:4

- Sheep need to be fed with pure doctrine and spiritual truth from God's Word.
- Prepare diligently for your group time together, carefully reviewing the discussion questions.
- Be a perpetual learner and student of God's Word so that at any given time you have something to share from the Bible that God has been teaching you.
- Chose content for your group time that centers upon God's Word.

### 3. **Lead Your Sheep.**

"He led forth His own people like sheep and guided them in the wilderness like a flock."  
(Psalm 78:52)

"He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake." (Psalm 23:3)

"Not lording it over those allotted to your charge but proving to be examples to the flock."  
(1 Peter 1:3)

- Lead by example in your relationship with Jesus. Are you a disciple worth reproducing?
- Be committed to personally feeding yourself from the Word.
- Be an example of someone who is diligent in heeding the warnings of Scripture.
- Lead your own family in spiritual growth well. (1 Timothy 3:4-5)
- Tithe faithfully.
- Serve regularly at church.
- Lead by example in respecting and honoring the leadership of the church.
- Be someone your sheep can come to for counsel and guidance when they are facing life challenges and temptation.

#### **4. Protect Your Sheep.**

"Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore, be alert..." Acts 20:28-29

- Be aware when your sheep are in danger of false teaching and worldviews that are contrary to a biblical worldview.
- Have your radar on for any attitudes that threaten the unity of your group or the church.
- Recognize 'stray sheep' and take decisive action when you do. For Jesus, a stray sheep was so serious a matter that a good shepherd would leave the other sheep behind to find it.
- Pursue lost sheep.
- Keep accurate and updated attendance so you know when sheep are starting to wander away.