

WEEK 5

SHEPHERDING SMALL
GROUP MEMBERS

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A. God's call to shepherd His people

Key Shepherding passages

What is the core teaching on each passage?

1. Acts 20:28-32

2. Psalm 23

3. Ezekiel 34:1-10

4. John 10:1-21

5. John 21:15-19

6. I Peter 5:2-4

7. I Thess. 2:1-19

B. Developing a shepherding plan - Ephesians 4:14-16

1. Two key areas

a. Personal Growth - How can I encourage the work God is doing in them?

b. Ministry development - How can I encourage the work God is doing through them?

2. Use key ministry tools, such as:

a. Discipleship Training Planner

b. Equippers Log

c. Seven Commitments/Disciplines sheet (You want to move them toward living all seven out in their lives.)

Note: People may be in different places. Someone might be ready for only one or two of the discipline, like personal quiet time and a small group study, while another may be ready for all seven as part of their life.

3. Include Group Shepherding Plans

Example:

Try to identify an area all of you need growth in (Scripture memory, evangelism, prayer), then come up with a plan that you all can participate in together; this way you grow as a team (Phil. 1:6). The you in this verse is you plural meaning the whole church.

Another idea:

Challenge your Small Group to attend Equippers together.

4. Brainstorm briefly for other ideas.

SHEPHERDING VS. ADMINISTRATION (Two styles of Discipleship)

Clarifying points: Who is called to disciple? Every Christian, as they mature, will be in a position to disciple in some way.

Intro: The Parable of the Two Disciplers

I. Society's attitude vs. the Bible's example

A. Societal background – ordering your private world

1. The business, administrative mindset
The result: The world rewards success in management
2. Impact on ministry
 - a. We become administratively oriented (emphasize technique)
Business minded emphasized strategies, mind-sets, not people.
 - b. It is easier to move with the movers and shoot the wounded,
focus on efficiency so much, gloss over those with problems.
The movers should help the wounded.

Words of warning: Guys are a lot more program oriented than women.

Spiritual growth is difficult to measure. We like things to be measurable in culture.

Servants aren't honored in today's society – Luke 22:23-27

B. Realize characteristics of a shepherd

1. I Thess. 2:7,8 – Time Time Time – Spend more time with your disciples. It demands a lot of commitment. Impart your life. (A nursing mother had a fond affection and became interested in their lives.)
2. I Peter 5:2,3 – What is your example? Lasting lessons are you living out what you are doing. Watch the image we portray.

C. Like produces like – Luke 6:40

II. Impact of shepherding

A. Lessons firmly embedded by example not just content

B. Disciples better grounded

C. People will be more open

D. Others

III. Suggestions

A. Spend time together

B. Go places – do necessities together

C. Group retreat

D. Others

IV. Application: what will you do to be more of a shepherd?

DISCIPLESHIP

I. Discipleship - focusing the efforts of your ministry in order to make Christ-like disciples.

A. The starting point: *“Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet: But one thing I do; forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”*

1. Forget – not encumbered by the past (failure of success)
2. Press – right now to prepare
3. Reach – think about future to prepare

What do we live the Christian life for?

For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. II Corinthians 5:14,15

B. The pre-eminence of priorities: Luke 14:28-33

1. A high cost to build: Definitely a cost (emotional, time) think through priorities
2. Fight a battle; many things will beg for your time and heart
3. Verse 26 – Christ must be first in our lives – work for Christ
4. Verse 27 – die to self, not to be nothing, but to follow Christ; He died for a purpose
5. Vs. 33 – the CULT of the comfortable – in can consume us.

“There can be no doubt that this possessive clinging to things is one of the most harmful things in this life. Because it is so natural, it is rarely recognized for the evil that it is, but its out-workings are tragic.” A. W. Tozer

C. Command – Matthew 28:13-20

1. Go
2. Baptize – identification process – need fellowship and support
3. Teach, and keep learning

D. Miscellaneous

1. Be yourself – don't become a hyper-spiritual giant: Be a genuine human being.
2. Spend some time by yourself. Mark 6:30-34 – you need time alone to pull away. You can't effectively work with people if you are always with people.
3. Don't be afraid to create healthy tension. There is a place for a certain amount of tension!! Disagreement means they are thinking.

II. Relationships, the plasma of Discipleship

A. Principles of building relationships.

1. Don't be too maternal, leave something to mom and dad
2. Don't limit their exposure to others – “not only YOUR disciples”. God's. Friends are so important!!
3. Share your failures and your struggles. People need to understand the process you went through. Things aren't always the way they appear.
4. Look for diversity, not uniformity in people.
5. John 13:34 – Love your disciples, love who you work with.

B. Environment

1. Matthew 13:58 – Believe that God can change a life
2. Create a climate of love and acceptance – separate the person from the performance.
3. Confront conflict – it is healthy
4. See the potential, not the problems!
5. Go for quality, not quantity
Don't spread yourself thin, pour into a few.

C. Four principles of Christ's ministry

1. He did it Himself
2. He did it, and the disciples were with Him
3. The disciples would do things, Christ would observe and give input
4. The disciples would do the ministry

I Thessalonians 1:1-9

I Thessalonians 2:1-12

Do I have a labor of love in someone's life?

Do I want to input my life into someone else?

Am I willing to make this a "go the extra mile – whatever it takes?"

Assignment:

1. Develop a shepherding plan for a person you're working with or a potential person.
2. Write down and come up with two group shepherding projects you would like to see your Small Group do together.



Which Love Language Are You?

1. **Encouraging Words** - *1 Corinthians 8:1*

One way of expressing love is by building up others through verbal encouragement. Here are some examples: "You're such a compassionate person. I need to learn from you," or, "The flower garden looks beautiful. You must have worked on it all day," or "That dress really compliments you. Taking time to verbally pat someone on the back is a way of saying "I love you." For some, there is no greater way to express love that by words of legitimate praise under recognition.

2. **Acts of Service** - *1 John 3:1*

Another way of communicating love is through sincere acts of service. This means doing something special for another person that you know he or she is going to appreciate. Service is an action outside the normative of everyday life. Maybe for a husband, it means putting gas in his wife's car on Sunday night so she does not have to think about it all week. Maybe it is shown by fixing the leaky faucet or by getting around to making those shelves she wants for the closet. Whenever you do something for another person beyond the normal course of events, you are saying, "I love you," in action.

3. **Gift Giving** - *Ephesians 5:24*

The greatest gift of love the world has ever known is Jesus Christ, who gave himself for His church. Gift giving is a third way of saying, "I love you." Although often a simple gesture, it packs great meaning because of what it represents. Impromptu gift giving (unlike times such as birthdays or holidays) means: when we were apart, you were on my mind. The gift is a token reflecting my thoughts for you. A modest gift is a meaningful token that can say to a needy heart, "I love you."

4. **Quality Time**

The gospel record provides insights into the quality time Jesus had with His heavenly Father and with the men He disciplined. Although His goal was to train His disciples for ministry service, He recognized that they needed to spend personal time with Him. That time with the Master brought conformity to their thinking. We can best define quality time by stating what it is not. It is not sitting on the couch reading the newspaper or watching television together. It involves more than just communicating impersonal facts like the five o'clock news. Quality time requires that you invest yourself in the other person by listening carefully and giving an appropriate response to what was said. It involves two people who are actively participating in the conversation and going beyond the fact level of communication. The time may only be for ten minutes but, for the person whose love language is quality time, those ten minutes become precious.

5. **Physical Touch and Closeness** - *Mark 10:13-16*

Physical touch and closeness is a special way of saying, "I love you." Holding hands, giving hugs, putting your arm around your spouse's shoulder, or just standing close to each other sends a special love message. Some people enjoy being near each other even when silence prevails. Like working on projects in the same room. Just knowing the other person is right there is enough to confirm a person's affection and care.

List your Love Languages (1 being the highest)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.