

## Shepherding the Flock

## Discipleship is a Relationship

1. With God
2. With Family
3. With the Church
4. With the Lost

### Suggested Memory Verse

## Romans 15:1-2

**Purpose: To Biblically define “shepherding” and understand whose work it is to shepherd**

Definition of Shepherding: Caring and looking after the people of God; To supply the direction, oversight and love that is so desperately needed by all of God's people

1. Read Exodus 18:13-26. This is the first account of shepherding in the scriptures. Write below the reason shepherding was instituted, and compare it to the present situation in the Lord's church.
2. Look at these Old Testament passages and discover God's desire and plan for shepherding. Write down the general idea of these verses.
  - A. Ezekiel 34:1-8
  - B. Jeremiah 3:15
3. Look at the following New Testament passages and discover God's continued plan for shepherding. Write down the general idea of these verses.
  - A. 1 Peter 5:1-4
  - B. Romans 15:1-3
  - C. James 5:19-20
4. Whose responsibility is it to be a shepherd of God's people?
5. From the verses we've already looked at, why do you think people need shepherding, and what will happen when shepherding isn't taken care of?
6. Read John 21:15-17. Three times Jesus commanded Peter to do something. What was the command?

How do you think Jesus feels when one of His sheep goes astray and no one is there to search for that sheep and bring it back?

## (Shepherding the Flock Continued)

7. Just as a newborn baby requires constant attention, so also does the newly born-again Christian. Every Christian is called by God to help in the shepherding of the flock. If we are to be effective in the ministry, we must have certain qualities about us. List them below:

A. 2 Corinthians 1:12

B. 2 Corinthians 2:4

C. Ephesians 5:1

D. Colossians 3:16

E. Colossians 4:2-3

8. Shepherding requires much more than just the things listed above. Look at the scriptures below and the words printed along-side the scriptures. Explain why these qualities are essential for good shepherding.

A. Ephesians 4:1-2 Patience

B. Galatians 6:1-2 Gentleness

C. Matthew 24:13 Endurance

D. Romans 12:1-2 Sacrifice

E. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 Encouragement

F. 2 Corinthians 4:7 Spirit-filled

9. God wants you involved in the ministry of shepherding. Will you as an individual begin doing what you can to help fill this need? Will you as partners work together? Your preacher has names you could begin working with. Why not ask him for a name or two? Discuss this among yourselves. Pray about this. Write below what you plan to do.

10. Below is a list of practical ideas to help in your shepherding.

A. Visit people in their homes or invite them into your home periodically.

B. Telephone call

C. Contact with them at church

D. Cards and letters

E. Listen attentively

F. Help them with a job they are working on

G. Make sure they have transportation to and from church

H. Hospitalization or bereavement calls are essential

I. Notice when they are absent from church. Find out if there is a problem.

J. Be a good example.