

LEADER AS SHEPHERD

How leadership requires a Good Shepherd

Psalm 23: 1-6

Discussion Questions

1. How does the shepherd provide for the sheep (vv1-4)?
2. What does that imply?
3. What is the shepherd's role in ensuring the sheep get green pasture?
4. What does this say about the manner of provision?
5. How are the "rod and staff" comfort?

John 10: 1-5, 10-15

Discussion Questions

1. How is Jesus both a gate and the shepherd? What do you think he's trying to emphasize about himself by using both images?

2. Focus on the three contrasts. What do you learn about shepherding from each?

Contrasts	Good Shepherd
Stranger	
Thief and robber:	
Hired hand:	

3. How do thieves steal the sheep?

4. How would “the shepherd lays down his life for the sheep” have sounded to Jesus’ first hearers?

5. What is the danger of the wolf?

6. How do we come to know Jesus’ voice? What has this looked like for you in your relationship with Jesus up to this point?

7. How would you classify your leadership at this point? What makes you say this?

Case Studies in Shepherding

Description of a Shepherd	What is the issue? What could be done alternatively to shepherd more faithfully?
<p>Nancy signs up and Nancy (student leader) feels a sense of victory in having gotten someone who's not very connected to the community to join in for something like a retreat. At small group the week before the retreat, Nancy says she can't come any more because she's too busy. Leslie asks why she can't make it and Nancy admits to having felt very stressed and overwhelmed with her schoolwork. Leslie tries to convince Nancy to just bring her homework and when she gets annoyed, drops it. At the retreat, Leslie is disappointed because the Bible studies address something she knows Nancy is wrestling with. Leslie wishes Nancy had been able to make it.</p>	
<p>Over time Sarah noticed that Ken, her partner in the small group they're building together, has a problem keeping commitments he has made. This is more obvious to Sarah than to others, because it has affected her consistently. More than once Sarah has thought about mentioning it to Ken, but each time has held back.</p>	
<p>Cindy is a member of Luke's small group. Cindy opens up to Luke about her uncertainty about God's work in her life. As Luke takes initiative with Cindy to help her understand and feel God's presence, he begins to have feelings for her. Soon he asks her to dinner. She is confused but flattered by his attention.</p>	