

# Leadership from the Shepherd's Perspective

Participant Workbook



**PRESENCE  
POINT®**

LIVE INTO YOUR CALLING™

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It's right, it's real, and it's convicting.

— Patrick Lencioni

Author of *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team*,  
*The Ideal Team Player*, and *The Advantage*

Shepherd leadership is all about servant leadership in action. Everyone should recognize that their job is to provide, protect, and be present for their people. Applying this model will make a difference in their lives and yours.

— Ken Blanchard, Ph.D.

Author of *New One Minute Manager*  
Co-author *Lead Like Jesus Revisited*

Leadership from the Shepherd's Perspective—Participant Workbook

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## Welcome!

We're thrilled that you're willing to explore leadership from the perspective of the shepherd and are excited to take this journey with you.



Those that have participated with us in the past have found this experience to be one of the most powerful workshops they've encountered... and we hope it will be the same for you.

The foundation for our time together is based on our belief that ***Shepherding is a Universal Godly Leadership Principle***. The road that's taken us to this premise has been painful, yet the most rewarding of our lives. We've found that the most effective leadership is not only based on Jesus' principles, but beautifully and remarkably demonstrated in the metaphor of the shepherd.

Our promise to you is that at the end of our time together you will find the principles of shepherding to be the imperative foundation to leading in every aspect of your life and your purpose as a leader will be renewed. As noted by a previous participant, ***"Shepherding is a comprehensive model of what true leadership embodies."***

May you find it a joy to shepherd God's way as you ***Live Into Your Calling***,

Doug and Holly Culhane



# What are the responsibilities of an actual working-with-sheep shepherd?



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## Objectives

- To position shepherding as a Universal Godly Leadership Principle.
- To view Provision, Protection, and Presence as key responsibilities of genuine shepherding.
- To establish absolute surrender to the Father as a requirement to be an effective, godly shepherd.





| <b>Topic</b>                  | <b>K</b>      | <b>W</b>              | <b>L</b>            |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
|                               | What You Know | What You Want to Know | What You've Learned |
| <b>The Leader as Shepherd</b> |               |                       |                     |

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# The Shepherd as Leader... from Genesis to Revelation

## **Genesis 48:15b**

The God before whom my fathers, Abraham and Isaac, walked, the God who has been my *shepherd* all my life long to this day.

## **2 Samuel 5:2b**

And the LORD said to you, “You shall be *shepherd* of my people, Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel.”

## **1 Chronicles 17:6**

In all places where I have moved with all Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to *shepherd* my people, saying “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”

## **Psalms 78:70-72**

He chose David, his servant, and took him from the sheepfolds; from following the nursing ewes he brought him to *shepherd* Jacob his people, Israel his inheritance. With an upright heart he *shepherded* them and guided them with his skillful hand.

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## **Jeremiah 23:2a**

Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the *shepherds* who care for my people...

## **Zechariah 10:2b**

Therefore, the people wander like sheep; they are afflicted for lack of a *shepherd*.

## **1 Peter 5:2**

*Shepherd* the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you, not for shameful gain, but eagerly.

## **Revelation 7:17a**

For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their *shepherd*, and He will guide them to springs of living water.

# Definition of Shepherd

## Noun

1. person who herds, tends, and guards sheep
2. a person who protects, guides, or watches over a person or group of people
3. to tend or guard as a shepherd: ***to shepherd the flock***
4. to watch over carefully

## Synonyms

1. protector, guardian, defender, keeper

## Bible Reference

A word naturally of frequent occurrence in Scripture. Sometimes the word "pastor" is used. This word is used figuratively to represent the relation of rulers to their subjects and of God to his people. The duties of a shepherd in an unenclosed country like Palestine were very onerous. "In early morning he led forth the flock from the fold, marching at its head to the spot where they were to be pastured. Here he watched them all day, taking care that none of the sheep strayed, and if any for a time eluded his watch and wandered away from the rest, seeking diligently till he found and brought it back. In those lands sheep require to be supplied regularly with water, and the shepherd for this purpose has to guide them either to some running stream or to wells dug in the wilderness and furnished with troughs. At night he brought the flock home to the fold, counting them as they passed under the rod at the door to assure himself that none were missing. Nor did his labors always end with sunset. Often he had to guard the fold through the dark hours from the attack of wild beasts, or the wily attempts of the prowling thief."\*



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# Shepherd Job Description

## Job Duties

- Safely herd sheep to abundant grazing areas
- Rescue sheep that become lodged between rocks and boulders or fall down steep embankments
- Care for wounded and sickly sheep
- Protect, herd, and care for sheep and other livestock
- Work outdoors and be comfortable overseeing the well-being of sheep and other livestock
- Be familiar with lambing practices
  - Newborn sheep are susceptible to disease and birthing complications, so shepherds must assist with live births. They also treat sick lambs, nurse orphan lambs, and protect babies from predators.*
- Act as protector of the flock
  - A shepherd's primary responsibility is protecting sheep from predators – specifically coyotes. Shepherds might use animals, such as herding dogs, llamas and donkeys, to gather and protect sheep. They might also install electric fencing, bells, or alarms to ward off predators. Some shepherds also use guns or traps to protect sheep from predators, but they must comply with state requirements to use such methods.*

## Skill Requirements

- Gentle touch and warm demeanor to make the sheep comfortable and receptive to care
- Knowledge of which pastures are most bountiful during different seasons
- Knowledge of required vaccinations and birthing procedures
- Experience delivering sheep and familiarity with breeding cycles
- Experience maintaining lambs' overall health, nutrition, and safety
- Experience in various methods of protecting sheep from predators

## Preferred Background

- A high school diploma or equivalent
- Work experience on a farm or a ranch
- Familiarity with farm animal care or herding

## Years of Experience

- Experience is not required, as on-the-job training is the norm

## Church

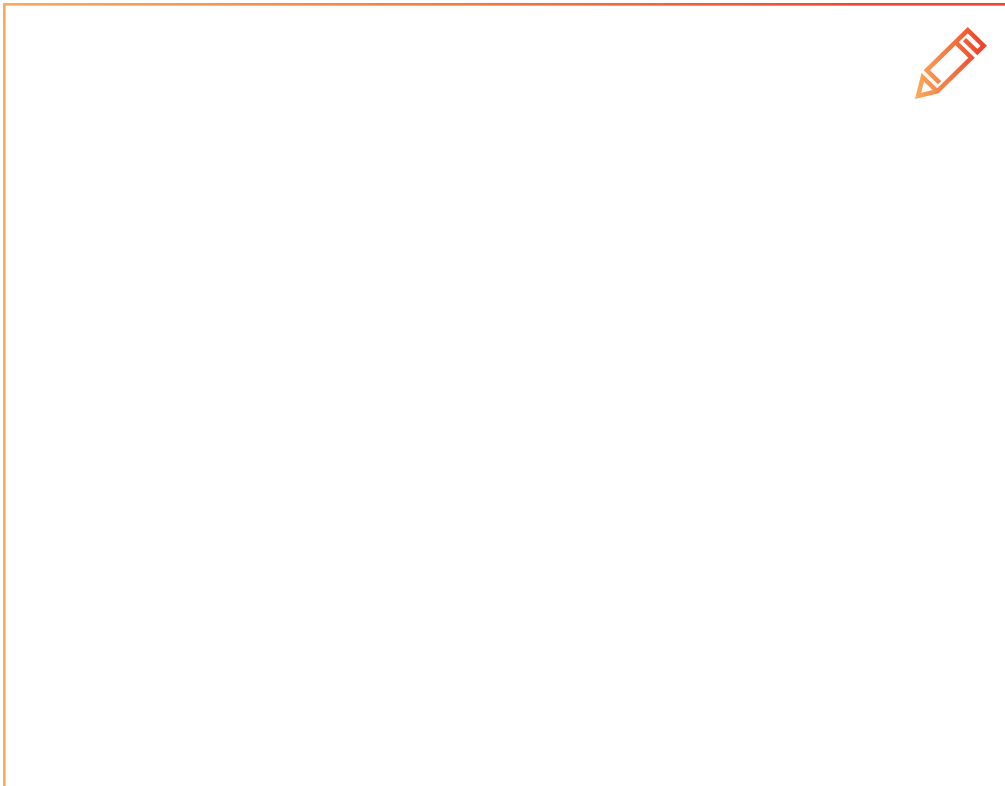
**Pastors are leaving ministry at a rate of 1,700 per month\***

- Discouragement
- Failure
- Loneliness
- Moral Failure
- Financial Pressure
- Anger
- Burnout
- Physical Health
- Marriage/Family Problems
- Too busy/driven

## Work Environment

**Voluntary turnover rates continue to increase**

**Engaged, disengaged, and actively disengaged employees self-identify**



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## Family

**The number of children in the United States living in single-parent homes has nearly doubled in the last 50 years**

**Studies have shown that a broken family negatively affects all domains of a child's development**

**Children from fatherless homes are:**

- 5 times more likely to commit suicide
- 10 times more likely to engage in drug abuse
- 14 times more likely to become sexually aggressive or commit rape
- 20 times more likely to have a behavioral disorder
- 32 times more likely to run away

## Volunteers

**1 out of 3 volunteers who volunteer in one year do not volunteer in the next year — a 33% voluntary turnover rate**



# Think of a time... when you were **not** properly shepherded.

**1. What were the behaviors you witnessed or experienced?**

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**2. How did you react/respond to those behaviors?**

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**3. What happened as a result... for you? For the shepherd?**

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# Think of a time... when you were properly shepherded.

1. What were the behaviors you witnessed or experienced?

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3. What happened as a result... for you? For the shepherd?

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### **Zechariah 11:15-17**

<sup>15</sup> Then the LORD said to me, “Go again and play the part of a worthless shepherd. <sup>16</sup> This illustrates how I will give this nation a shepherd who will not care for those who are dying, nor look after the young, nor heal the injured, nor feed the healthy. Instead, this shepherd will eat the meat of the fattest sheep and tear off their hooves.

<sup>17</sup> “What sorrow awaits this worthless shepherd who abandons the flock! The sword will cut his arm and pierce his right eye. His arm will become useless, and his right eye completely blind.”

### **Psalm 23**

<sup>1</sup> “The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need. <sup>2</sup> He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. <sup>3</sup> He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name. <sup>4</sup> Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me. <sup>5</sup> You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings. <sup>6</sup> Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever.”

### Isaiah 56:9-12

<sup>9</sup> Come, wild animals of the field! Come, wild animals of the forest! Come and devour my people!

<sup>10</sup> For the leaders of my people—the Lord's watchmen, his shepherds—are blind and ignorant. They are like silent watchdogs that give no warning when danger comes. They love to lie around, sleeping and dreaming.

<sup>11</sup> Like greedy dogs, they are never satisfied. They are ignorant shepherds, all following their own path and intent on personal gain.

<sup>12</sup> "Come," they say, "let's get some wine and have a party. Let's all get drunk. Then tomorrow we'll do it again and have an even bigger party!"

### Jeremiah 23:1-4

<sup>1</sup> "What sorrow awaits the leaders of my people — the shepherds of my sheep — for they have destroyed and scattered the very ones they were expected to care for," says the LORD.

<sup>2</sup> Therefore, this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says to these shepherds: "Instead of caring for my flock and leading them to safety, you have deserted them and driven them to destruction. Now I will pour out judgment on you for the evil you have done to them. <sup>3</sup> But I will gather together the remnant of my flock from the countries where I have driven them. I will bring them back to their own sheepfold, and they will be fruitful and increase in number. <sup>4</sup> Then I will appoint responsible shepherds who will care for them, and they will never be afraid again. Not a single one will be lost or missing. I, the LORD, have spoken!"



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## John 10:1-16

<sup>1</sup>“I tell you the truth, anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold, rather than going through the gate, must surely be a thief and a robber! <sup>2</sup>But the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They won’t follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don’t know his voice.”

<sup>6</sup> Those who heard Jesus use this illustration didn’t understand what he meant, <sup>7</sup> so he explained it to them: “I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me were thieves and robbers. But the true sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. They will come and go

freely and will find good pastures. <sup>10</sup> The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

<sup>11</sup> “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don’t belong to him and he isn’t their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. <sup>13</sup> The hired hand runs away because he’s working only for the money and doesn’t really care about the sheep.

<sup>14</sup> “I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, <sup>15</sup> just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock with one shepherd.”



### Ezekiel 34:1-10

<sup>1</sup>Then this message came to me from the LORD: <sup>2</sup>“Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds, the leaders of Israel. Give them this message from the Sovereign LORD: What sorrow awaits you shepherds who feed yourselves instead of your flocks. Shouldn’t shepherds feed their sheep? <sup>3</sup>You drink the milk, wear the wool, and butcher the best animals, but you let your flocks starve. <sup>4</sup>You have not taken care of the weak. You have not tended the sick or bound up the injured. You have not gone looking for those who have wandered away and are lost. Instead, you have ruled them with harshness and cruelty. <sup>5</sup>So my sheep have been scattered without a shepherd, and they are easy prey for any wild animal. <sup>6</sup>They have wandered through all the mountains and all the

hills, across the face of the earth, yet no one has gone to search for them. <sup>7</sup>“Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: <sup>8</sup>As surely as I live, says the Sovereign LORD, you abandoned my flock and left them to be attacked by every wild animal. And though you were my shepherds, you didn’t search for my sheep when they were lost. You took care of yourselves and left the sheep to starve. <sup>9</sup>Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD.

<sup>10</sup>“This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I now consider these shepherds my enemies, and I will hold them responsible for what has happened to my flock. I will take away their right to feed the flock, and I will stop them from feeding themselves. I will rescue my flock from their mouths; the sheep will no longer be their prey.”



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### Ezekiel 34:11-16; 20-24

<sup>11</sup> “For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search and find my sheep. <sup>12</sup> I will be like a shepherd looking for his scattered flock. I will find my sheep and rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on that dark and cloudy day. <sup>13</sup> I will bring them back home to their own land of Israel from among the peoples and nations. I will feed them on the mountains of Israel and by the rivers and in all the places where people live. <sup>14</sup> Yes, I will give them good pastureland on the high hills of Israel. There they will lie down in pleasant places and feed in the lush pastures of the hills. <sup>15</sup> I myself will tend my sheep and give them a place to lie down in peace, says the Sovereign LORD. <sup>16</sup> I will search for my lost ones who strayed away, and I will bring them safely home again. I will bandage the injured and strengthen

the weak. But I will destroy those who are fat and powerful. I will feed them, yes — feed them justice!

<sup>20</sup> “Therefore, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will surely judge between the fat sheep and the scrawny sheep. <sup>21</sup> For you fat sheep pushed and butted and crowded my sick and hungry flock until you scattered them to distant lands. <sup>22</sup> So I will rescue my flock, and they will no longer be abused. I will judge between one animal of the flock and another. <sup>23</sup> And I will set over them one shepherd, my servant David. He will feed them and be a shepherd to them. <sup>24</sup> And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David will be a prince among my people. I, the LORD, have spoken!”







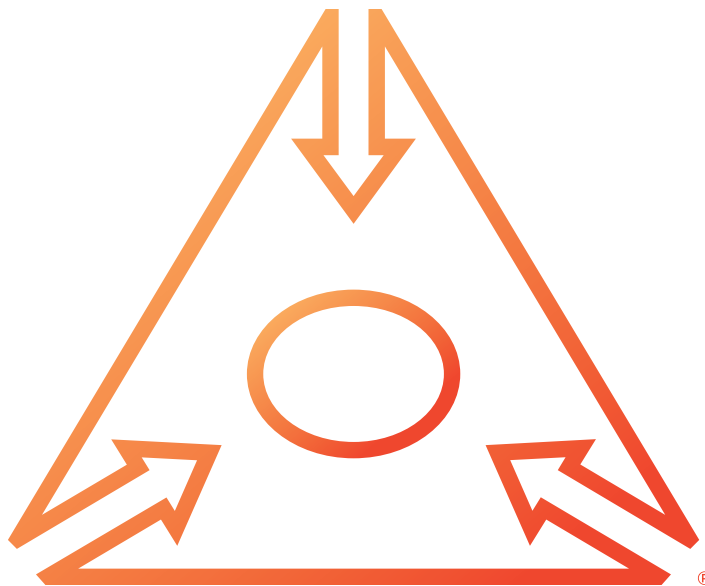
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# The Leader's Shield

Godly Shepherding behaviors include the following responsibilities:

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*At hand; physically and/or emotionally available and engaged*



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*To take care of or to furnish or supply a need of another*

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*The act of safeguarding, shielding another from harm, or guarding against danger*

## Responsibilities of a Shepherd

Review the following list of the responsibilities of a working-with-actual-sheep shepherd, and identify if each responsibility reflects Provision (PV), Protection (PT), and/or Presence (PS). Circle the abbreviation(s) that apply.

|  |    |    |    |
|--|----|----|----|
| Pays a price for his sheep   | PV | PT | PS |
| Has an intimate relationship with the sheep  | PV | PT | PS |
| Lays down his life for the sheep on a continual basis, if the sheep are to flourish and prosper  | PV | PT | PS |
| Cares meticulously for the sheep and gives them endless attention (Sheep require more care and attention than any other class of livestock.)   | PV | PT | PS |
| Spares no pain for the welfare of his sheep  | PV | PT | PS |
| Provides nourishment from the finest grazing, the richest pasturage, and ample winter feed (The welfare of the flock is entirely dependent upon the management afforded them by their owner.)  | PV | PT | PS |
| Provides clean water and plenty of it, but from a variety of sources – dew, etc., not just bodies of water (Only through a shepherd's energy, effort, sweat, and strength can sheep be satisfied; everything for the sheep hinges and is dependent upon the shepherd.) | PV | PT | PS |
| Provides salt and other trace minerals for the sheep, if the food is not nourishing enough to do so on its own   | PV | PT | PS |
| Delights in his flock  | PV | PT | PS |
| Shelters the sheep from storms   | PV | PT | PS |
| Protects the sheep from ruthless enemies   | PV | PT | PS |
| Protects sheep from the diseases and parasites to which they are so susceptible, including the nasal fly and the scab disease that a minute, microscopic parasite can cause  | PV | PT | PS |

|   |           |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Is alert to the welfare of the sheep from early dawn until late at night  | <b>PV</b> | <b>PT</b> | <b>PS</b> |
| Assures the sheep are fit, content, and able to be on their feet (A shepherd does this the first thing each day and repeatedly throughout the day. Even at night, he sleeps with one eye and both ears open.) | <b>PV</b> | <b>PT</b> | <b>PS</b> |
| Assures the sheep are free of all fear (Sheep won't lie down unless they are not fearful.)  | <b>PV</b> | <b>PT</b> | <b>PS</b> |
| Assures the sheep are free from friction, including tension, rivalry, and cruel competition with other sheep  | <b>PV</b> | <b>PT</b> | <b>PS</b> |
| Assures the sheep are free of aggravation from pests, such as flies and parasites   | <b>PV</b> | <b>PT</b> | <b>PS</b> |
| Assures they are free from hunger   | <b>PV</b> | <b>PT</b> | <b>PS</b> |
| Makes it possible for the sheep to lie down, to rest, to relax, to be content and quiet, and flourish   | <b>PV</b> | <b>PT</b> | <b>PS</b> |
| Keeps them in a dry climate   | <b>PV</b> | <b>PT</b> | <b>PS</b> |
| Does the work that will produce green pastures, since this doesn't happen naturally in a dry climate  | <b>PV</b> | <b>PT</b> | <b>PS</b> |
| Brings a calming presence to the sheep  | <b>PV</b> | <b>PT</b> | <b>PS</b> |
| Keeps watch over the sheep every day, to assure the "cast down" sheep — those that have fallen over — are quickly overturned (Sheep can't get back up by themselves.)   | <b>PV</b> | <b>PT</b> | <b>PS</b> |
| Assures the sheep doesn't have too much wool  | <b>PV</b> | <b>PT</b> | <b>PS</b> |
| Assures the sheep are healthy (not too fat)   | <b>PV</b> | <b>PT</b> | <b>PS</b> |
| Manages and handles with intelligent care; guides and disciplines   | <b>PV</b> | <b>PT</b> | <b>PS</b> |
| Moves the sheep to the high country, via the valleys, at the right times for their protection and feeding   | <b>PV</b> | <b>PT</b> | <b>PS</b> |
| Prepares for protecting the sheep with his "rod," through training, development, and coaching   | <b>PV</b> | <b>PT</b> | <b>PS</b> |

|   |           |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Uses the "rod" wisely for the sheep's comfort and consolation, to examine and count the sheep, and to protect himself and his sheep (The rod speaks of authority, power, discipline, and defense.)  | <b>PV</b> | <b>PT</b> | <b>PS</b> |
| Uses the "staff" properly to draw the sheep together, to guide them, and to touch them  | <b>PV</b> | <b>PT</b> | <b>PS</b> |
| Warms the sheep when they are chilled   | <b>PV</b> | <b>PT</b> | <b>PS</b> |
| Prepares the table land by adding salt and minerals and by clearing out the water holes, springs, and drinking places, cleaning out the accumulated debris of leaves, twigs, stones, and soil which may have fallen into the water source | <b>PV</b> | <b>PT</b> | <b>PS</b> |
| Decides ahead of time where camps will be located to assure the sheep have the best bed grounds   | <b>PV</b> | <b>PT</b> | <b>PS</b> |
| Carefully reviews the range to determine how vigorous the grass and upland vegetation is and to decide whether some glades and basins can be used only lightly, whereas other slopes and meadows may be grazed more heavily               | <b>PV</b> | <b>PT</b> | <b>PS</b> |
| Is alert for predators  | <b>PV</b> | <b>PT</b> | <b>PS</b> |
| Cares for the sheep's scabs   | <b>PV</b> | <b>PT</b> | <b>PS</b> |
| Takes a proactive, offensive stance during the season of the rut by rubbing the rams' heads and, sometimes, their noses with grease, allowing them to glance off each other during altercations, rather than lock horns                   | <b>PV</b> | <b>PT</b> | <b>PS</b> |
| Stays in the storm with the sheep   | <b>PV</b> | <b>PT</b> | <b>PS</b> |



# Shepherd's Operating Manual

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| <b>What I've Learned</b> | <b>Why that Learning Is Important to Me?</b> | <b>Why that Learning Is Important to My Organization, Church, or Family?</b> |
|--------------------------|--|--|
|                          |  |  |

# The Woe-To's



## Ezekiel 34:1-16 (NET)

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>2</sup>“Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them — to the shepherds: “This is what the sovereign LORD says: **WOE TO** the shepherds of Israel who have been feeding themselves! Should not shepherds feed the flock? <sup>3</sup>You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the choice animals, but you do not feed the sheep! <sup>4</sup>You have not strengthened the weak, healed the sick, bandaged the injured, brought back the strays, or sought the lost, but with force and harshness you have ruled over them. <sup>5</sup>They were scattered because they had no shepherd, and they became food for every wild beast. <sup>6</sup>My sheep wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. My sheep were scattered over the entire face of the earth with no one looking or searching for them.

<sup>7</sup>“Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: <sup>8</sup>As surely as I live, declares the sovereign LORD, my sheep have become prey and have become food for all the wild beasts. There was no shepherd, and my shepherds did not search for my flock, but fed themselves and did not feed my sheep, <sup>9</sup>Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: <sup>10</sup>This is what

the sovereign LORD says: Look, I am against the shepherds, and I will demand my sheep from their hand. I will no longer let them be shepherds; the shepherds will not feed themselves anymore. I will rescue my sheep from their mouth, so that they will no longer be food for them.

<sup>11</sup> “For this is what the sovereign LORD says: Look, I myself will search for my sheep and seek them out. <sup>12</sup> As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his scattered sheep, so I will seek out my flock. I will rescue them from all the places where they have been scattered on a cloudy, dark day.

<sup>13</sup> I will bring them out from among the peoples and gather them from foreign countries; I will bring them to their own land. I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the streams and all the inhabited places of the land.

<sup>14</sup> In a good pasture I will feed them; the mountain heights of Israel will be their pasture. There they will lie down in a lush pasture, and they will feed on rich grass on the mountains of Israel.

<sup>15</sup> I myself will feed my sheep and I myself will make them lie down, declares the sovereign LORD. <sup>16</sup> I will seek the lost and bring back the strays; I will bandage the injured and strengthen the sick, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them—with judgment!”





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**Zechariah 11:17** (NET)

<sup>17</sup> **“WOE TO** the worthless shepherd who abandons the flock! May a sword fall on his arm and his right eye! May his arm wither completely away, and his right eye become completely blind!”

**Jeremiah 23:1-4** (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> **“WOE TO** the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!” declares the LORD.  
<sup>2</sup> Therefore this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says to the shepherds who tend my people: “Because you have scattered my flock and driven them away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done,” declares the LORD.

<sup>3</sup> “I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number.  
<sup>4</sup> I will place shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing,” declares the LORD.”



# Personal Application

**Are there times I could have been more effective as a shepherd?**

**1. What can I learn from this experience?**

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**2. How can I grow as a shepherd in this area?**

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**3. What action do I need to take to make amends with the sheep  
in my life I may have harmed or offended?**

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# Death of Shepherding

- Absolute Surrender
- Malnourishment

**How can we Provide, Protect, and be Present when we've not shepherded ourselves properly?**

When our habits aren't what they should be...  
Our hearts aren't as pure as they should be...  
And we're not able to shepherd properly.

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Our reason for absolute surrender cannot be for comfort, money, or possessions, but because we want Him to wring all the glory for Himself that he can get out of us.

— Lon Solomon, McClean Bible Church, Arlington, Virginia

The condition for obtaining God's full blessing is absolute surrender to Him.

— Andrew Murray, *Absolute Surrender*

# Unconditional Surrender

By Dr. Charles Stanley

## 1 Kings 20:1-4

About that time King Ben-hadad of Aram mobilized his army, supported by the chariots and horses of 32 allied kings. They went to besiege Samaria, the capital of Israel, and launched attacks against it. Ben-hadad sent messengers into the city to relay this message to King Ahab of Israel: "This is what Ben-hadad says: 'Your silver and gold are mine, and so are your wives and the best of your children!'" "All right, my LORD the king," Israel's king replied. "All that I have is yours!"

**Giving absolute power over our life to another human being would be a scary proposition. But to accept and acknowledge the LORD's authority over us is fitting and right. Unconditional surrender means:**

- **Yielding ourselves** — including all we have and all we are — to the Lordship of Christ. It is an identification with Him in which we decrease and He increases. We first experience surrender in our attitude and then live it out in obedient action.
- **Placing no limit on what we are willing to do or become.** This means we have: no restricted areas in our life where Jesus is not invited; nothing set aside for our own exclusive use; no place where we tell Him, "Hands off." We make ourselves totally available to His will — whenever, wherever, and however He chooses.
- **Transferring ownership of our body, soul, and spirit to Christ.** By doing so, we embrace as our own values the principles of the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12), the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), the hierarchy of the kingdom (Mark 9:35), suffering for Christ's sake (1 Peter 4:13), and dying to self (Galatians 2:20).

**One reason we tend to hold back is fear. *What will the LORD require of us?* Another stumbling block is selfishness — *we like having control over our own schedule and long-range plans. A third obstacle is pride. We know what the LORD wants us to do, but can't He see how that could hurt our reputation?***

**What keeps you from abandoning yourself to the LORD Jesus and crying, "Please take total control over my life?"**

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**Matthew 5:3-12** (NASB)

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Galatians 5:22-23** (NASB)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

**Mark 9:35** (NASB)

Sitting down, He called the twelve and said to them, "If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all."

**1 Peter 4:13** (NASB)

But to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.

**Galatians 2:20** (NASB)

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

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**WHAT** "baggage" am I carrying that hinders me from shepherding properly?

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**WHAT** are my next steps in the implementation process?

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**WHO** will hold me accountable to this Action Plan?

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**By** \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, I will \_\_\_\_\_

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# Ideas, Insights, and Intentions



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“Now may the God of peace —  
who brought up from the dead our  
LORD Jesus, the great Shepherd of  
the sheep, and ratified an eternal  
covenant with his blood —

may He equip you with all you  
need for doing His will.

“May He produce in you, through the  
power of Jesus Christ, every good  
thing that is pleasing to Him.

All glory to Him forever  
and ever! Amen.”

—Hebrews 13:20-21

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