

Leadership #6-  
Lead like a Shepherd

Shepherds in the Bible: Abraham, Jacob, Moses, David, and Amos just to name a few. Shepherds were the first on the scene for the birth of Jesus, and Jesus even called himself the Good Shepherd.

**#1- Think like a shepherd means its all about the sheep.**

READ John 10:11-13-

<sup>11</sup>“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. <sup>13</sup>The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

-Being a shepherd doesn't just mean that you care for, feed, lead, and protect the sheep. It means that you're willing to lay your life down for the sheep.

-Shepherds ask, “What do the sheep need?”  
Hirelings ask, “What's it in for me?”

Question Set #1-

- 1- What words come to your mind when you think of a shepherd?
- 2- What are the types of things that leaders have done for you in the past that made you feel valued as a team member?
- 3- Knowing that you'll never have to give your physical life for those that you lead, what does it mean to lay your life down for others as a leader?

**#2- Leading like a shepherd means taking people to a place that they DON'T want to go.**

READ John 10:3-

The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

-Pen is comfort, seems safe, with the group, sleep, etc.

READ Psalm 23-

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

-First Lady Rosalynn Carter- "A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go, but ought to be."

-If you're taking people where they want to go, you're not a shepherd or a leader, you're an Uber driver.

#### Question Set #2-

1- What is something that a leader "made" you do, that you didn't see the value of until after you did it?

2- As a leader, how do you get people to do things that they don't want to do? Things that are costly, uncomfortable, or new?

3- Where are you taking your team, as their leader? Do people understand what you are trying to do and where you are trying to lead them?

4- Think specifically about the area you lead. What's the ultimate "win" for the people following you? What's the end goal you are trying to get them to see or experience as a result of your leadership?

### **#3- Good Shepherd Leaders know they Work for the Great Shepherd**

READ 1 Peter 5:2-4-

Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; **3** not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. **4** And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

-All leaders have a boss, and all leaders work for a goal. Maybe it's a pay raise, maybe it's an award like teacher of the year, maybe it's a perk like paid vacation or something like that. But what if your boss is JESUS?

-Scripture says that we are to do EVERYTHING in our lives "as unto the Lord." That means if you're a teacher, a banker, a mom/dad, a welder or a mechanic, even if you are your own boss and own your own business, you will work for God!

#### Question Set #3-

1- When you work for a physical person, there are rewards that you can receive for doing a good job. What are the rewards that leaders receive when they do their work as unto the Lord?

2- Most people are attracted to leadership because it gives them pay/position/power. Yet, leading like a shepherd seems to be a thankless job. If someone asked you why you wanted to be a leader that doesn't get the pay/position/power, what would you say?

#### **#4- Lead by example**

READ John 10:4- When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.

Question Set #4-

1- What areas of your life are you confident in that your example would be a good example to others? What areas of your life need work before you can hold them up as a standard for others to shoot towards?

2- Leaders have to walk the line between bragging about their actions and using your life to personally challenge other people. So how do you lead by example in the areas of service, generosity, spiritual growth, evangelism, scripture memory, and prayer?