

Pastoral Intervention
(for the week of November 22, 2020)

Note to Group Leaders: More than anyone else, you are aware of the size of your group, time constraints, the needs of your group, etc. Please read through the Scripture and material below and use whatever you believe will be most helpful to your group.

This Week's Scripture: Ezekiel 34:11-24

Key Idea from Sermon

God loves and shepherds his sheep and promises to send a shepherd in the line of David to save them.

For Starters

1. Read Ezekiel 34:11-24 and answer the following questions.

- Why is God doing the work of a shepherd?
- What are the signs of God being a good, effective shepherd?
- Who is this shepherd that God is sending?

For Further Discussion

2. Read Psalm 23. Describe what the following phrases mean and how you have experienced God shepherding you in that way.

- The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. (v. 1)
- He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, (v. 2)
- he refreshes my soul. (v. 3)

- He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. (v. 3)
 - Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. (v. 4)
 - You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. (v. 5)
 - You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. (v. 5)
3. What is the hope expressed in Psalm 23:6?
 4. Read John 10:1-18.
 5. What was Jesus telling the Pharisees in John 10:1-6?
 6. What does Jesus call himself in John 10:7-10? What does he mean by describing himself in such a way?
 7. Jesus refers to himself as "the good shepherd" in John 10:11-18. Compare and contrast Jesus, the good shepherd, to the hired hands.
 8. How does Jesus, the good shepherd, compare with the image of the shepherd in Ezekiel 34:11-24?

Applying the Scripture

9. In what ways are you a shepherd to those entrusted to your care and leadership?

10. List the chief characteristics of a good shepherd that you find in Ezekiel 34:11-24, Psalm 23, and John 10:1-18.

11. Which of those attributes best describes you? Which one do you most need to work on?

12. Memorize Psalm 23 and recite it to someone.