

## **Core Leader as a Shepherd Persisting in Prayer for your Core Members**

***"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."*** ~ John 15:5

Sometimes caring for our core members is frustrating. We can experience this frustration with people who withdraw and want to quit.

This is God's ministry and He is in control. Our God is Almighty; if we need a mountain moved to do his will and we ask, he will move it! Prayer is how we turn to Him and give all our efforts to Him. It is how we can truly say we are relying upon God, which will free our minds of worry and frustration, because the results are up to God. When we pray, we are blessed and those we minister to are blessed as well. Commit all your sheep individually to the Lord in prayer this week.

- Pray that God will help us to persevere as we strive to do good for those we shepherd. Galatians 6:9- "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."
- Pray before calling those you are ministering to so that God can make your time most effective. James 5:16 "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."
- Ask God for guidance in dealing with issues. James 1:5 "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."

God's ministry is too important to try to do on our own. Prayer is how we invite God into our hearts and the hearts of those we shepherd so that the outcome of our efforts are to His glory.

### **Questions:**

1. How is your prayer life? Do you make every effort to involve the Lord in the decisions and affairs of your life? Why or why not?
  
2. What external and internal hindrances to prayer do you need to eliminate from your life?
  
3. How can you pray individually for your core members this week? (e.g. general prayers, specific prayers based on prayer sheet, prayers based on your phone call, etc.)