



Shepherd Like Jesus

The two pillars of CBS are:

- Holding out the Word of God
- Shepherding the men, women, students and children that attend the class

Every year during training we set aside time to look at shepherding, because, honestly, we can all grow in this area. Some of us may be tempted to say, "I am not gifted in this area." But we don't get a pass when it comes to shepherding if we are a Christ-follower.

Imagine for a minute that this is your very first Bible study. As you walk through the doors of the building where CBS is held, your stomach is in knots. You don't know much about the Bible. You don't know anyone who comes to CBS. You are totally out of your comfort zone.

As shepherds of CBS, how can we make this person feel comfortable and cared for?

Let's spend some time and look at our Shepherd – The Good Shepherd. Jesus teaches us how to care for others.

Jesus Spent Time Alone with the Father

- Read Mark 1:21-35. In these verses we are given a glimpse of 24 hours in the life of Christ. List all that He did in that 24 hours.
- You would think after a day like that, He would want to take a few days off. But He didn't. Instead we learn in Mark 1:35 that He went to a solitary place to pray. Jesus didn't let a hectic schedule jeopardize His time alone with God.
- As leaders we can't possibly give away what we don't have. In other words, we can't give from an empty bucket. Spending time with the Father must be a priority so that we know Him and His character and our buckets are filled. Out of that overflow, we serve.
- Pray – ask God for wisdom (James 1:5). Each member of your group is different. God will give you insight into how you should shepherd each one.

Jesus Seized Moments to Make an Impact

He used everyday events and interruptions to speak truth. Jesus knew that most people learn best if we walk beside them instead of ahead of them.

- Can you think of a person that has influenced/impacted you? What was it that they said or did that made a memorable difference?

- As leaders we can have an influence in impacting lives for Christ. It starts with the small things we do.
 - Encourage someone on the way to the teaching.
 - Grab coffee with one of your core group members and listen to what they say.
 - Spend time on the phone and ask someone how their week is going.
 - Send a postcard (snail mail) and let someone know that you are “so glad they came.”
 - Text a Scripture and let someone know you are praying it for them.
 - Learn to find the best in people and point it out.
 - Model thankfulness.

Jesus Asked Questions

Questions are the key that unlock better understanding and relational depth. How can you become a better question asker?

- Observe people who are good at asking good questions. Who do you know that asks good questions? A teacher, a friend, a co-worker? Do you wonder how they come up with good questions? Ask!
- Remember good questions. If you come across a good question, remember it and use it again. Here's a few:
 - If you could meet anyone in history, who would it be, and why?
 - What is one of your best memories from growing up?
 - If you could change one thing about your life, what would it be?
 - Who are the people who have influenced you the most, and what was it that made them so influential?
 - When did you come to know Jesus personally?
- Be curious. Genuinely curious.
- This takes time. And in the instant world in which we live, we must fight for enough margin in our lives to ask intentional meaningful questions because we care.

Jesus was a Storyteller

He knew how to capture someone's attention and hold it. He communicated through word pictures and parables – a loaf of bread, a lost coin, types of soil. (Matthew 13:33, Luke 15:8-10, Mark 4:14-20) There was a spiritual application to make people think.

We relate to stories, don't we? Many times when we listen to a teaching, it is the story that we remember because it drives the spiritual point home. God is at work in our lives – we each have stories to tell. One of the most important is how we came to faith. The ongoing story is how He continues to work and show up in our lives. There is nothing so exciting as seeing God work! Everyone is encouraged. As you get to know the members of your core group, encourage the sharing of God stories so that the body is built up and God is glorified!

Jesus Showed Compassion

Treat people kindly, not just showing sympathy, but demonstrating hands-on compassion. Being Jesus to someone else. You, as the leader, model this for your group.

- When you stop and pray for someone who is troubled
- When you take a meal to a family in need
- When you stay after teaching and listen to someone who needs a listening ear.
- How has someone showed you compassion. . . modeling Christ?

Jesus Cast the Vision

He gave us the marching orders as He left this earth to return to the Father. *“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20*

Let's go back to that new person coming to CBS for the very first time. If that person was treated as Jesus treated others, do you think that person would feel comfortable? Would that person feel encouraged, challenged and cared for? Do you think that person would feel as if he/she belonged to that group, that class, that ministry – the ministry that calls people to Jesus Christ?

Other Shepherding Resources on FISHER:

Core Leaders Training Tools

Core Leader Shepherding

Building Core Group Relationships

Heart Check Challenge

Acrostic for a Good Shepherd