

# **Core Leader as a Shepherd**

## **Building Relationships by Connecting with Core Members**

**Communicate Effectively** - We all have very busy lives so we want to be sure to be intentional with our time when taking on any task. There are lots of ways for us to communicate; phone call, text, e-mail, card, or perhaps a one on one meeting for coffee. Each of these show caring and encouragement. But verbal and face to face communication are the most effective ways to develop relationship.

**Motivation** –Does calling/connection seem like a task to you? Is it awkward, unpleasant, maybe even frustrating? Connecting with your core member will enable them to feel more comfortable and confident in their core group.

**Communicate Often** - It is the only way to know what is going on in their lives. In order to guide and care for our sheep, we must know where they are and where they are headed. Just as sheep learn that their shepherd will care for them, our consistent communication with our core group members will teach them that we are concerned for them and that they are on our minds.

**Learn to Listen** - Here are some tips that can help us become good listeners. 1. Ask questions and repeat/rephrase their replies. This shows that you are listening. 2. If possible, acknowledge them with things in your life that show you can relate to them.

**Mix it up** - If a phone call doesn't reach them, try an e-mail, text, or card to help break the ice. Other times to connect can include the walk to the teaching time, or even intentionally sitting by a different core member each week during opening or teaching time. Then there's that few minutes after teaching time at the end of class day, just enough time to connect with even a quick "how are things..."

### **Questions:**

1. Talking to people that you do not know very well can be intimidating. What are some things that you can do to make this sometimes difficult task less intimidating?
  
2. We usually like to spend time with people just like us. Though we are different in many ways from a worldly perspective, what are some things that we all have in common that are good topics of conversation that will help you get to know them?
  
3. How have your calls/ connections gone this past week? Share some ideas with others in your LD group.