



WEEK MAR 14 - MAR 20

MAIN IDEA

Jesus is the good shepherd, and Jesus has passed down the responsibility of shepherding.

CHECK IN (HIGHS & LOWS) 15 min

A great, quick way to catch the highlights of what is happening in the lives of the people in your group is to take turns quickly sharing the “highs & lows” of your week. High: What was the highlight of your week? Low: What was the low point of your week?

SETTLE IN (ICE BREAKER) 10 min

1. Start your time with open prayer. Set a timer for five minutes and leave it open for anyone to pray for what’s on their mind. Here are some potential topics:
 - For us to feel how much God loves us
 - For our group to have fresh understanding and insight of God’s truth
 - For you to see where God wants to apply his truth in your life
2. Tell us about someone who made a profound impact on your faith.

LOOK IN (OBSERVATION) 15 min

1. Read Ezekiel 34:1-6. What are the ways the shepherds (leaders) of Israel failed to take care of their people? (This is a long list, so build it out).
2. Based on this list, what should they have been doing?

3. Read John 10:11-15. How is Jesus the good shepherd?
4. Read John 21:15-19. What was the task Jesus gave Peter?
5. Read 1 Peter 5:1-6. What is the task Peter gave elders of the local church?

LOOK UP (UNDERSTANDING) 20 min

1. Considering Ezekiel 34:1-6, why is God infuriated with the shepherds/leaders of Israel? What does that tell us about God’s heart?
2. Based on John 10:11-15, what does this passage tell you about the relationship Jesus wants to have with his followers?
3. According to John 21:15-19, why is it important that Jesus passed down the mantle of caring for people in the church?
4. How have you seen people in the church step in and take care of you?
5. According to 1 Peter 5:1-6 what are some of the directives given to elders/pastors (pastor is another name for shepherd) in the local church?
6. How are we called to respond to leadership in our church in light of this?

GEAR UP (APPLICATION) 20 min

1. How are you letting Jesus be the shepherd of your life?
2. Elders/pastors are charged to guard, protect, and lovingly challenge the people God has put in their care. At a large church like Summit, lay leaders like group leaders are charged with helping shepherd and challenge small groups of people. How is this easy or difficult to follow?

STEP UP (HOMEWORK) 5 min

1. **Challenge:** send a note or message to someone who has shepherded you in your faith walk telling them how they’ve impacted your life and thanking them for how they have supported or challenged you.