

# Shepherding: Reflect & Pray

## GC LEADER SHEPHERDING TOOL

*Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. – 1 Peter 5:2-8*

*Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. – Acts 20:28*

We have all experienced how easy it is to go through the motions of leading GC discussions and activities, but drift from our calling to shepherd people. In light of that, we want to offer a simple activity that has helped us **pay careful attention** to the flock. The activity is to keep an updated list of the people in your group, and to review it weekly. It is as simple as it sounds, but it requires discipline, discernment, and follow-through.

Here's what you do: Schedule a time each week that you are going to update and review your list (maybe just the guys or the girls). Take a moment to **reflect** on each person ... what's going on with them and how are they doing spiritually? Note any thoughts or action items that come to mind (see below). Then **pray** for your people by name.

## REFLECT

### 1. Connect

- To someone specific (counsel, networking, discipleship, social)
- To a ministry (class, partnership, serving, recovery, counseling)
- To membership or baptism

### 2. Care

- Practical help (care calendar, moving, babysitting, etc.)
- Help deal with conflict
- Benevolence

### 3. Correct

- Follow-up on something they said at GC (teaching, discipleship)
- Address patterns of sinful behaviors or lack of living into commitments

### 4. Delegate

- Am I doing something that they could do well?
- Is there something I am not doing that needs to be done?
- How could they use their gifts to build up our GC or church?

## PRAY

### 1. Pray for specific things that are going on in their lives

- Good passages to direct your prayers: *Matt. 6:9-13, Rom. 12, Php. 1:3-11, Eph. 1:15-23; 3:14-21; 4:17-32*

### 2. Marks of Spiritual Growth:

- The fruit of the Spirit (*Gal. 5:22-24*)
- Faithful presence (*Heb. 10:24-25, Acts 2:46*)
- First-hand knowledge of Jesus (*1 John 1:1-3*)
- Serving others (*John 13:12-17, Mic. 6:8*)
- Gospel-fluency (*Eph. 4:20-32*)
- Generosity (*2 Cor. 6:6-8*)
- "Speaking truth in love" (*Eph. 4:14-15*)
- Missional life (*Matt. 5:13-18, 28:18-20*)

- Abe → send an email to let him know we are praying for them (CARE)
- David → Schedule a time to talk about his need to repent of his sin (CORRECT)  
\* Might need to involve elders
- Joseph → Ask d-group leader to help him work through conflict resolution (CARE, DELEGATION)
- SAMPSON → See if Tiffany can fix his haircut (CARE, DELEGATION)
- Jacob → Connect d-group for accountability
- Mark → Get him in queue for membership (CONNECT)
- Demas → Need to call to see where he's been (ALL)
- Luke → Ask him to lead discussion next week (DELEGATE)
- Amos → Could he run point on our local partnership? (DELEGATE)
- Cornelius → Needs to get baptized (CONNECT)