



## FAITHFUL SHEPHERDING

If you have a pattern of having someone share their *Story of Faith* (life before Jesus, encountering Jesus, life since/lately with Jesus) and/or sharing *Evidences of God's grace*, begin with that, followed by a time of thankful prayer for Christ's work in the individual's life/the grace in your lives.

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### OPENING COMMENT

What does it mean when Jesus tells Peter to feed His sheep? Who are the sheep? What is the food? And what are the qualifications of a shepherd? The answers to these questions remain critical for the church today.

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### READ THE TEXT: John 21:15-17

<sup>15</sup>When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." <sup>16</sup>He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." <sup>17</sup>He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you know about sheep?  
Who are the sheep that Jesus refers to in the sheep/shepherd metaphor?  
Why does Jesus use this particular metaphor?



2. Why is it significant that only after Peter confesses his love for Jesus is Jesus prepared to call him to feed His sheep?
3. What is Jesus telling Peter (and leaders in local churches) to do when he says, *feed my sheep*? (Matthew 4:2; Mark 6:34; Acts 6:4; Col 1:28; 1 Tim 4:13; 2 Tim 2:2, 15)
4. What constitutes a Christian church?
5. If the gospel message is regularly obscured, softened to the point of being altered, or hasn't been clearly preached in a while, is it a Christian church?
6. Jesus is the Chief Shepherd of the Sheep and those who serve in leadership in the church are under-shepherds. Jesus is the Great High Priest and those who are His are the priesthood of all believers. Peter was under qualified but Jesus fit Him for the task. Do you feel under qualified to be a disciple maker? In what way?
7. Read Hebrews 5:12-6:1. What is the substance of the warning?  
Maturity comes from sitting under the Word but also comes from living in such a way that you need to grow more for others' sake. What are some ways in which you could step out and live intentionally as a disciple-maker?
8. Who are some people that you could disciple (teach about Jesus according to His Word in the context of relationship)?

## CONCLUSION

Those that Jesus calls, He equips. And He calls those who love Him to be fed by the Word and to feed others with the Word. Lets be lovers of Jesus and disciple-makers together!

## SHARE & PRAY

- Share how you can pray for each other in light of this study.
- Pray for those by name that you want to ask Jesus to help you disciple.
- Conclude by spending some time praying for one another, for the areas of growth and grace you are seeking, and the needs among you.

