

Unit Nine: BE A SHEPHERD-LEADER

Lesson One: Why Do We Need To Be Shepherd-Leaders?

1. Dr. Lynn Anderson has written a book titled *They Smell Like Sheep*. The title of his book refers to the shepherd who takes care of his sheep. The shepherd smells like sheep because he is not separated from them. He does not stand above them and force his authority over them. He is among them as both a leader and a caretaker (a servant to them). Dr. Anderson explains the difference between worldly leadership and the biblical guidelines for leadership that are based on the way a good shepherd takes care of his sheep. The lessons in this week of study are partly based on the things written in his book.

We know that a shepherd is someone who takes care of sheep. God uses the example of a shepherd to explain spiritual leadership in both the old and the new Testaments. Good leaders are described in the Bible as being like a shepherd.

A shepherd is someone who takes care of _____.

2. A Shepherd takes care of sheep. Why do sheep need a shepherd? The reason is very simple. Sheep need a lot of help. They make bad choices and do not understand the danger they are in. They need someone to protect them from wild animals that want to eat them. They need someone to guide them away from places where they can get hurt. As a driver, I am always concerned when I see sheep on the road. They do not realize the danger they are in. When you sound your horn at them, they continue to walk slowly in the roadway not realizing they are in danger.

Sheep need a shepherd because they do not realize _____.

2. Sheep do not realize the danger they are in. New and immature Christians are like sheep. They need someone to warn them of the danger they are in. They need someone to train them how to avoid danger. They need someone to protect them from evil people who want to use them for personal gain. They need a shepherd-leader who cares for them.

The Kingdom of God is filled with Christians who need help. One man or even a few men and women in each church cannot meet the needs of all these people. The few who are trying to meet these needs soon become overwhelmed by the large number of people who come to them for help. We need more shepherd-leaders working in God's church. Someone has said, "You are either a part of the problem or a part of the solution." Become a part of the solution by becoming a shepherd-leader.

How can we meet the overwhelming need to help new and immature Christians avoid danger and keep out of trouble? _____

3. We must develop more shepherd-leaders. We need more men and women who are willing to help others find their way to a successful Christian life. We also need more men and women who are willing to help new leaders find their way to successful Christian leadership. New leaders need shepherd-leaders to guide, mentor and train them to become shepherd-leaders.

The most common explanation of spiritual leadership found in the Bible is that of a shepherd taking care of his flock of sheep. God used the example of a shepherd-leader in more than 500 passages of Scripture. If we want to understand spiritual leadership, we must understand how a shepherd does his work.

The most common biblical example of spiritual leadership is a _____ caring for his _____.

4. A shepherd caring for his sheep is the most common example of spiritual leadership found in the Bible. God's care for us is often described as a shepherd caring for his sheep. Read Psalm 23 and answer these questions.

If I allow God to be my shepherd,

- a. I will not be in _____.
- b. He will guide me in paths of _____.
- c. I will fear _____.
- d. He will protect me from my _____.
- e. Some day I will live in his house _____.

5. God loves us like a shepherd loves his sheep. He does not allow us to be in want of the things we need. He guides us in living the righteous life. He is always there in times of danger so that we need not fear evil. He protects us from our enemies. He wants us to live in his house forever.

Isaiah wrote these words about God, *He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young* (Isaiah 40:11).

God is like a _____ to those who follow him.

6. God is our example of spiritual leadership. He is like a shepherd to us. Even though we make bad decisions and do not realize the danger we are in, he watches over us and cares for us.

David was a shepherd before he became a king. Read how God describes the leadership of David in this Psalm: *He chose David his servant and took him from the sheep pens; from tending the sheep he brought him to be the shepherd of his people Jacob, of Israel his inheritance. And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them* (Psalm 78:70-72).

God called David to be the _____ of his people.

7. God describes his prophets, priests and kings in the Old Testament as shepherds. God called them to lead his people in the same way that a shepherd takes care of his sheep.

God was disappointed when his leaders failed to lead like shepherds. *Woe to the shepherds of Israel who only take care of themselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock? You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost. You have ruled them harshly and brutally. So they were scattered because there was no shepherd, and when they were scattered they became food for all the wild animals* (Ezekiel 34:2 and 4-5).

What happened when the leaders of God's people failed to be shepherd-leaders? _____

8. God was disappointed because the leaders failed to take care of the people. The people became weak and sick and were scattered. They were eventually destroyed by their enemies. Just as it is important for a shepherd to take care of his flock so that he can provide for his family, it is necessary for leaders to care for their people so that the church will remain strong. When the needs of the people are neglected, the church becomes weak and eventually falls. Read Jeremiah 25:34-38 then answer the question below.

How does God deal with a shepherd-leader who neglects his sheep? _____

9. God deals harshly with bad shepherd-leaders. They will be slaughtered. There will be no place for them to escape God's punishment. God will destroy their peaceful life. Jesus Christ is our best example of shepherd-leadership. The prophecy that he would be born in Bethlehem also tells us that he would be a shepherd-leader. *But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel* (Matthew 2:6 / Micah 5:2).

Jesus called himself a shepherd. He said, *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep"*(John 10:11). He also said, *"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me"*(John 10:14).

Jesus foretold that Gentiles (non-Jews) would also become children of God when he said, *"I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd"*(John 10:16).

Jesus came to the earth to be our _____-leader.

10. Jesus is our shepherd-leader. We can learn much about shepherd-leadership by observing how he cared for people when he was on this earth and how he still cares for us today. Jesus is the chief shepherd of all Christian leaders according to the Apostle Peter (1 Peter 5:1-4). We each have a flock to care for. Jesus is our chief shepherd who gives us instructions and guidance in doing the shepherding work.

After Jesus' resurrection, he met with his Apostles to encourage them. In one of those meetings, he challenged the Apostle Peter by asking Peter three times if Peter really loved him. Each time Peter said yes, and each time Jesus gave him an order to follow in order to prove that he loved Jesus. Here are the three orders that Jesus gave to Peter. *"Feed my lambs." "Take Care of my sheep." "Feed my sheep."* (John 21:15-17) Jesus ordered the Apostle Peter to be a shepherd to God's children. Jesus taught the Apostles to be shepherd-leaders and he sent them out to be shepherd-leaders.

Both _____ and his _____ were shepherd-leaders.

11. Jesus taught his Apostles to be shepherd-leaders. He ordered them to be shepherd-leaders. He expected them to be shepherd-leaders.

The Apostle Paul challenged the elders at Ephesus with these words, *Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood* (Acts 20:28).

The Apostle Peter challenged the church elders with these words, *Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve* (1 Peter 5:2).

The Apostles taught, ordered and expected church elders to be _____-leaders.

12. We can do no less than Jesus and the Apostles when it comes to our style of leadership. No matter which gifts we have, we must strive to be shepherd-leaders. No matter the kind of personality we have, we must strive to be shepherd-leaders. No matter which leadership position we hold, we must strive to be shepherd-leaders. God's word teaches us to be shepherd-leaders. We have been ordered to be shepherd-leaders. God expects us to be shepherd-leaders.

In your own words, explain why a shepherd style of leadership is needed no matter what position of leadership you hold. _____

Unit Nine: BE A SHEPHERD-LEADER

Lesson Two: What is a Shepherd-Leader?

1. Shepherd-leadership is based on the relationship between a shepherd and his sheep. The relationship is one of love, service and openness. Shepherds live in the field with their sheep. They live, eat and sleep near their sheep. They have so much contact with their sheep that they smell like sheep.

When a lamb is born, the shepherd holds it in his arms to encourage it and help it get started in life. He speaks softly to it out of love. He guides it to follow its mother and keep out of trouble. He trains it from its birth until it is mature. He continues day and night to guide the whole flock to be sure every sheep finds food and water and avoids enemies and danger. Wild animals (bears, lions and wolfs) are always looking for their opportunity to sneak into the flock, capture one of the sheep and drag it away for food. The shepherd can never be very far away from his flock unless he has a trusted friend who can take care of his flock while he is gone. Being a shepherd is a 24 hour a day job. Being a shepherd is a 7 days a week job.

In your own words, describe the relationship between a shepherd and his sheep.

2. There are many ways to describe the relationship between a shepherd and his sheep. His love for the sheep is so strong that he is with them all the time to protect and care for them. His most important task is the safety and the health of his sheep.

The most important task of a shepherd-leader is the spiritual S_____ and the spiritual H_____ of those the Chief Shepherd has called him to care for.

3. A shepherd-leader is concerned about the spiritual safety and the spiritual health of those under his care. He warns them of Satan's deceitful ways. He trains them in the paths of righteousness.

In the morning a shepherd leads his sheep out to the pasture where he helps them to find the best food and the best water. He has a special stick that has one end bent into a hook. If a sheep does something dangerous, he taps it with his stick to get its attention and then pulls it away from danger with the hook on the end of the stick. If a sheep is weak or injured, he carries it on his shoulders.

List the things that a shepherd does for his sheep during the day time:

- a. He leads them to find _____.
- b. He teaches them to avoid _____.
- c. He gives special care to the _____.

4. A Shepherd feeds and waters his sheep so they will be strong physically. He teaches them to avoid danger so they will not fall into destruction. He cares for the weak and the injured so that they can become strong again.

Can you think how a spiritual shepherd-leader would do something similar in caring for those God has put under his leadership? Complete the following statements.

- (1) A shepherd-leader will make his flock spiritually strong by _____.

- (2) A shepherd-leader will teach his flock to avoid spiritual destruction by _____.
- (3) A shepherd-leader will care for those who are spiritually weak or spiritually injured by _____.

5. We will discuss your answers to the above statements at the next group meeting. At the end of the day, the shepherd leads his sheep back to a fenced area called the sheep fold. It is a pen built just for his flock. There is only one entrance to the sheep fold. He examines each sheep as it passes through the entrance to see if any sheep has an injury or a problem as a result of the day's activities. He pulls aside those who need special attention and treats their wound or corrects their problem. He has a name for each sheep and he calls each one by its name. He quickly knows when one is missing. And, he goes looking for it immediately.

List the things that a shepherd does for his sheep at the end of the day:

- a. He examines each one for _____.
- b. He treats those that have _____.
- c. He goes looking for those who are _____.

6. A good shepherd examines every sheep at the end of the day to be sure each is in good condition and has no problems or injuries. If he finds one that is injured or has a problem, he will treat it and correct its problem. If one is missing, he searches until he finds it.

Can you think how a spiritual shepherd-leader would do something similar in caring for those God has put under his leadership? Complete the following statements.

- (1) A shepherd-leader will greet each member of his group and try to find out if _____.
- (2) A shepherd-leader will take whatever time is needed to help a group member to _____.
- (3) A shepherd-leader will quickly know who is _____ and take steps to _____.

7. We will discuss your answers to the above statements at the next group meeting. The fence for the sheep fold is tall so that it is impossible for the sheep to go over it and it is difficult for a wild animal to climb inside. The shepherd sleeps across the entrance to be sure no wild animal goes in and no sheep goes out during the night. His body protects the sheep and becomes the gate for the sheep fold. He is among the first ones to know that his sheep are in danger. Sometimes he knows they are in danger before they are aware of it. When wild animals try to get into the fold to eat his sheep, he fights them off with his special stick and other weapons of defense. Sometimes he gets injured by the wild animals and he often risks his own life in order to protect his sheep.

List the things that a shepherd does for his sheep during the night time:

- a. He protects the entrance of the fold with _____.
- b. He is among the first ones to know when _____.
- c. Sometimes he risks his _____.

8. The shepherd uses his own body as the first line of defense for his sheep. He is among the first ones to know when his sheep are in danger because he is close to them and he is aware of the things that are going on around them. When wild animals attack, he fights back risking personal injury and death.

Can you think how a spiritual shepherd-leader would do something similar in caring for those God has put under his leadership? Complete the following statements.

- (1) A shepherd-leader will use his own life as the first defense against _____.
- (2) A shepherd-leader will stay close to his group so that he can be among the first to know _____.
- (3) A shepherd-leader will take personal risks in order to _____.

9. We will discuss your answers to the above statements at the next group meeting. Being a shepherd is a full-time job. Not in the sense of 8 hours of work a day, but in the sense of 24 hours a day. Sheep need constant care or they will be in trouble. They are weak and easily captured by their enemies. They have bad judgment and often get themselves into trouble. The minute you stop caring for them is the time they will get into trouble or the wild animals will attack.

How does the time needed to care for sheep compare to the time needed to care for church members who are weak and immature in their spiritual life? _____

10. Caring for spiritually weak and immature Christians is a full-time work. Servant-leaders must constantly be watching out for their needs and guarding them against those who want to deceive them or use them for personal gain or destroy them. The Apostle Peter warned us. *Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour* (1 Peter 5:8). Shepherd-leaders must constantly be watching for Satan's attack against his flock.

Listen to the things David said about his shepherd work when he faced the giant Goliath: *But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine"*(1 Samuel 17:34-37).

A servant-leader must rely on the _____ to deliver him and his sheep from the hand of _____.

11. A servant-leader cannot care for his sheep on his own power. He must seek out and depend on the help, the wisdom and the guidance of the Chief Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ, to deliver them from the hand of Satan.

Each shepherd has his own special sound that he uses to call his sheep. The sheep recognize the voice of their shepherd and know when he is calling them. A man who visited Israel observed the shepherds one morning. The shepherds had their sheep folds near each other so they could help each other defend their animals in case wild animals attacked.

The shepherds had allowed their sheep to come out of the sheep folds and mix with each other. The shepherds had gathered in one place to visit. When it was time to lead their sheep to pasture, each shepherd took off in a different direction. Each shepherd gave his special call for his flock. Only his sheep responded to his call and followed him. Although the sheep heard the calls of the other shepherds, they only respected the call of their shepherd. The shepherd did not use his stick to beat or drive his sheep. Instead each shepherd gave his personal call and walked in front of his sheep leading them to a good pasture for food and water. Each sheep followed his own shepherd because each sheep respected the voice of his shepherd and trusted his shepherd to take care of him and help him find food and water.

Sheep follow their shepherd because:

- a. they _____ his voice.
- b. they _____ their shepherd.

12. Sheep learn to respect the voice of their shepherd and they follow him because they trust him. The respect and the trust are built over time through the constant care and attention given by the shepherd to his sheep. Three qualities of spiritual leadership are found in this relationship between sheep and their shepherd: *availability, commitment* and *trust*.

A spiritual shepherd will make himself available to help people. He will take time to get to know those under his care. He will help them with their problems. He will take time to encourage them. He will be checking on them to be sure all is going well in their life. He will let those under his care know that he is always willing to help.

The first step in becoming a spiritual shepherd is to make yourself _____ to help others.

13. You have to demonstrate that you care about people by making yourself available to help them with their problems. The more you help people, the more they will respect you and listen to your advice.

Remember, that the best way to help someone is to enable them to overcome their problems. We do not help people by paying their bills and doing their work for them. This causes them to become dependent on us and to never become successful in life. We help them by guiding them in paying their own bills and doing their own work successfully. We give them training and advice on how to use the things they have in order to overcome their problems. We give them training and advice on how to live for God. We teach them how to discover God's will for their life. We teach them to depend on the Lord Jesus Christ to enable them to overcome their problems and become successful in life. This gives them the physical and spiritual skills and the confidence to be successful. This enables them to become productive servants of God. We help them by enabling them to take care of themselves.

What should be our goal when we help someone with his problems? _____

14. When we help someone, our goal must be to train the person to overcome his own problems. We must teach him how to be a servant of God. We must teach him how to be successful with the things he already has and not to become dependent on you or the church. This takes time and patience.

The spiritual shepherd makes a full-time commitment to help certain people grow and mature. He cannot help everyone, but he can help a few chosen people with whom he develops a close relationship. His help cannot be just one time, but has to be ongoing - day after day, week after week, year after year until the person can stand strong on his own. The Shepherd-leader has to be willing to help with any and every problem that comes up in the person's life. He helps in a way that teaches the person to handle the problem himself.

Teaching people how to overcome their problems is a full-time C_____ for a shepherd-leader.

15. Teaching people to overcome their problems is a full-time commitment and never fully goes away even when the person is spiritually mature. A shepherd-leader is willing to make that commitment.

A spiritual shepherd knows that he has to earn the trust of the person he wants to help. Others may have disappointed the person or deceived him or used him for personal gain. The person may be discouraged because he has no hope of overcoming his present circumstances and he does not trust anyone to show him the right way out of his problems. It will take both time and personal involvement in helping the person again and again before trust is built. Once trust is built, then progress can be made in helping the person to follow Jesus in every part of his life. Remember, people do not care how much you know until they know how much you care. Before a person will listen to your advice and your spiritual training, he must be convinced that you truly care for him personally.

A shepherd-leader will not be able to give spiritual advice and training to those under his care until they are convinced that they can _____ him.

16. Christian sheep willingly follow spiritual shepherds whom they know can be trusted. However, remember that it takes only one time of failing to be trustworthy to destroy a lifetime of trustworthiness. The shepherd-leader must live a righteous life and he must keep his promises. Failure to do this will destroy trust.

To become a shepherd-leader, you must:

- a. Be A_____ to help others when they have a problem.
- b. Be C_____ to help others as long as they need help.
- c. Build T_____ with those you want to help.

17. A successful shepherd-leader makes himself available to those he wants to help. He commits himself to help them as long as they need it. And, he builds a relationship of trust with those he helps.

PERSONAL NOTES FOR PERSONAL GROWTH:

Make as many comparisons as you can between the work of a good shepherd and the work of a good spiritual leader.

Make a list of the things that you will do so that you can become a better shepherd-leader.

Unit Nine: BE A SHEPHERD-LEADER

Lesson Three: Titles of Authority and Shepherd-Leadership

1. In the New Testament we find an office in the church that is a direct calling to shepherd-leadership. This is the office of an elder in a local church. Each church had a group of elders. The elders had the responsibility of caring for the members of the church. They were to be like shepherds to the members.

What office of leadership mentioned in the New Testament was a direct calling to shepherding-leadership? _____

2. Elders were given the responsibility of shepherding the members of a local church. Research in the New Testament will reveal that the Apostles set up church government with elders holding the highest office in the church. These elders were also called shepherds and overseers. The words *shepherd* and *overseer* are used several times in describing the work of an elder. Read 1 Peter 5:1-4 as one example of this. (Also see: Titus 1:5-7 and Acts 20:17 & 28)

In the New Testament, the highest office of leadership in the local church was the elder who was also called a S _____ and an O _____.

3. An elder in the New Testament church was also called a shepherd and an overseer. There were always a group of elders and not just one ruling elder or one shepherd in the church.

The work of an elder has been misunderstood by many today. This may be the results of the mistranslation of the Greek word *poimen* in *Ephesians 4:11*. The Greek word *poimen* means a shepherd. Every place you find the word shepherd in the New Testament, it comes from the Greek word *poimen* in the original Greek writings.

Poimen is a Greek word which means _____.

4. It is interesting that the Greek word *poimen* is translated as shepherd in every passage of the New testament except one. *Poimen* is translated as *pastor* only in *Ephesians 4:11* which says, *It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers*. If the translators had been consistent in their translation, they would have translated *poimen* as shepherd in this passage just like they do in all the other New Testament passages.

The word *pastor* in *Ephesians 4:11* really means _____.

5. The word *pastor* in *Ephesians 4:11* should have been translated shepherd. The reason it was translated as *pastor* is probably for political reasons. When the first English translation (*King James Version*) was published in 1611, the title of *pastor* was given to a person who was appointed by higher church officials to oversee a local church. The pastor had authority over the elders in the church. He was not a leader chosen from within the church. He was someone who had been appointed by leaders outside the church. The word *pastor* came from an old European language called Latin and it meant shepherd. Latin is the language out of which the present-day French, Spanish and Italian languages developed.

By this time, church government had developed to the point where there were officers called bishop who controlled the churches in a district and there was an archbishop or a pope who had authority over all the churches. These higher authorities appointed pastors to take leadership over local churches. This approach to leadership gave the pastor authority over the elders within the church. This type of government became a common practice of many denominations.

Most English translations still use the word *pastor* instead of *shepherd* to translate *poimen* in Ephesians 4:11. It is interesting that in eleven (11) English translations, Ephesians 4:11 is the only passage of scripture where *poimen* is translated as pastor instead of shepherd.

Poimen is translated as *pastor* only in Ephesians 4:11 because most denominations have created a position of authority over a local church called a _____.

6. English translations of Ephesians 4:11 use the word *pastor* instead of *shepherd* because most denominations appoint pastors to have authority over a local church.

The New Testament example of having local elders oversee the church has been changed by denominational church leaders who took a political approach to leadership. They took the Greek word for shepherd which was used to describe the work of an elder and made a new office of pastor to oversee the elders of the local church. They allowed the elders to continue as local leaders within a church, but they put the pastor in authority over the elders. They also took the Greek word for overseer which referred to the work of an elder and made a new office called bishop whose responsibility was to oversee the churches in a region or a district. The word *bishop* came from an old English word which meant to oversee.

In denominational government, the original New Testament use of the word *shepherd* for an elder was changed to the title of _____ and was given to a person having authority over the elders in a local church.

Also in denominational government, the original New Testament use of the word *overseer* for an elder was changed to the title of _____ and was given to a person having authority over the churches in a district.

7. Denominational church government has taken the New Testament title of overseer which was another name for an elder and changed it to the title of bishop. This title was then given to someone having authority over the churches in a district or region. They have taken the New Testament title of shepherd, which was also a name for an elder, and change it to the title of pastor. This title was given to someone having authority over the elders of a local church.

This is not the way the Apostles set up the government of the church. They kept the government of the church very simple. They trained evangelists who became the source of spiritual teaching and guidance for a district. The work of an evangelist was to enable the local church to govern itself by training (mentoring) the elders, the deacons and the deaconess within the church.

In the New Testament form of church government, an E _____ mentored the elders, deacons and deaconess to enable them to govern the local church.

8. We can compare evangelists to present-day church planters. They do not serve with authority, but as servant-leaders. An evangelist trains and mentors elders for leadership in the local church. The elders did the shepherding work within the church.

Denominations made church government more complicated. This complicated system had a tendency to put more emphasis on authority and less emphasis on servant-leadership. They appointed someone to have authority over the elders and gave him the title of pastor. They appointed someone to have authority over the pastors in a district and gave him the title of bishop. They chose someone to have authority over all the districts and gave him the title of archbishop or pope. When they did this, they also took the shepherding work away from the elders and gave it to only one man in the church, the pastor.

When denominations made the government of the church more complicated, they took the work of shepherding away from the _____. This change in government also put more emphasis _____ and less emphasis on the idea of being a _____-leader.

9. The development of a system of government where there was a pastor over the elders of a church took the work of shepherding away from the elders. The system also had a tendency to put emphasis on authority leadership instead of servant-leadership.

The danger in changing the form of government found in the New Testament is the danger of leadership becoming more like worldly leadership instead of servant-leadership. Changing the form of government set up by the Apostles, took away the local autonomy of the churches. Churches were no longer allowed to be independent and govern themselves. District leaders controlled the things that took place in the local church. Worldly attitudes of leadership were used by some leaders to dictate the things that the local church must do. When church leaders focus more on positions of authority instead of seeking out opportunities of service, local autonomy of the church and servant-leadership can be destroyed.

Jesus warned the Apostles about adopting worldly forms of church government. *Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave-- just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many"*(Matthew 20:25-28).

If church leaders focus on holding positions of authority, they may be tempted to _____ it over those under their authority and to exercise (force) their _____ over others.

10. The danger of setting up a worldly form of church government is that leaders will be tempted to lord it over those under their authority and to exercise their authority over them. When leaders seek titles of authority, they usually are not interested in servant-leadership. Our title is not so important, but our attitude about how to lead is very important.

When you fully understand why the title shepherd was used by the Apostles, you will understand why it is dangerous to change the form of government and why it is also dangerous to change the translation of Ephesians 4:11 to say *pastors* instead of *shepherds*. The word *shepherd*, when fully understood, clearly indicates servant-leadership. The word *pastor* does not clearly indicate the type of leadership God requires of us.

Which do you think is the best word to use in Ephesians 4:11, *pastors* or *shepherds*? Explain your answer. _____

11. We will discuss your answer at our next group meeting. A shepherd-leader is a servant-leader. The New Testament church was set up by the Apostles with a group of local elders to govern it. They were called elders because they were older men within the church who had spiritual wisdom and spiritual experience. The local elders were also referred to as overseers and shepherds. They were called overseers because it was their responsibility to oversee the work of the local church. They were called shepherds because it was their responsibility to be like shepherds to the members of the church. The members of the church were often called *the flock* or *the sheep*. This is one reason we want you to think seriously about being like a shepherd in your leadership. If these local leaders in the church were called shepherds, there must be a good reason for it.

The elders of a church are to be like _____ to the members of the church.

12. Elders are to be shepherds to the church members. Jesus said that the people of his day were like sheep without a shepherd (Matthew 9:36). Does this describe Christians today?

We need more shepherds in the church. We need to restore the shepherding work to the elders of the church. We need to train elders how to be good shepherds to the flock. The Apostle Peter wrote this to the elders: *Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock* (1 Peter 5:2-3).

In the New Testament we read about different areas of leadership for the church. The Apostle Paul established elders, deacons and deaconess in the leadership of the churches (Acts 14:23, 20:17; 2 Timothy 3:1-12; Titus 1:5-9). Ephesians 4:11 mentions the leadership positions of apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds and teachers. The Apostle Paul trained and mentored men like Titus and Timothy to be evangelists (church planters) and apostles (missionaries). He sent them from church to church to teach, to encourage and to mentor the local church leadership. However, no matter which position of leadership you hold, a shepherd style of leadership is needed.

Even though there are different positions of leadership in the Lord's work, every leader needs to have a _____ style of leadership.

13. A shepherd style of leadership is needed no matter which leadership responsibility you may hold.

A. Explain how the form of church government may destroy shepherd-leadership?

B. Do you think that a shepherd style of leadership can be applied to every leadership position in the church? Explain your answer. _____

C. Do you know examples where Christian leaders have put the emphasis on authority instead of service in their leadership? How can we avoid this? _____

Unit Nine: BE A SHEPHERD-LEADER

Lesson Four: False Shepherds

1. There are many wrong ideas about how to lead God's people. There are also many who are leading God's people for the wrong reasons. Let us examine a few of the false ways to shepherd God's people.

One day a guide on a Christian tour bus in Israel was explaining to the Christians how a shepherd cares for his sheep. He brought up the subject because the bus was passing through a pasture land where shepherds were feeding their sheep. As he was explaining the love that a shepherd has for his sheep, suddenly the people saw someone chasing sheep, throwing rocks at them and hitting them with a stick. The tour guide became so angry that he stopped the bus and approached the man chasing the sheep. He explained to the man that his action was destroying the image of a gentle shepherd. The man replied, "You have it all wrong. I am not a shepherd. I am a butcher!"

Does a butcher have love for the animal he slaughters? _____

2. The butcher is not concerned about the needs of a sheep. He is concerned about how he can use the sheep to make a profit for himself. If he cleans it, it is only so he can get a good price from the wool. If he makes it healthy, it is only so he can get a good price for the meat. He has no concern for the personal needs of the sheep.

Sadly, some leaders want to take control of God's people only for personal gain. They do not lead in order to serve, but they lead in order to gain. They use people to gain power or popularity or to build a name for themselves. They want to say, "Look at the things I have done." They are not concerned about the people they lead. They are only concerned about using people to make themselves look good. Sometimes their attitude leads them to be harsh in the way they treat those under their leadership.

Leaders who want to use God's people for personal gain are like the _____.

3. Butcher type leaders do terrible spiritual destruction. Projects may be accomplished, and buildings may be built, but spiritual maturity is destroyed. The end results is spiritual destruction. Righteousness, morality and spiritual maturity are destroyed.

It is sad that good leaders sometimes feel reluctant to stop butcher type leaders. This happened in the church at Corinth. Men who claimed to be super apostles brought false teachings into the church and used the members for personal gain. The church leaders thought they were wise in tolerating these men because the men claimed to be super apostles. Paul wrote this to the leaders in the Corinthian Church: *You gladly put up with fools since you are so wise! In fact, you even put up with anyone who enslaves you or exploits you or takes advantage of you or pushes himself forward or slaps you in the face* (2 Cor. 11:19-20). These false shepherds were very harsh. They did not show love or concern for the members. However, the leaders of the Corinthian church tolerated them thinking it was the wise thing to do.

How can you tell the difference between a butcher-leader and a shepherd-leader?

4. Shepherd-leaders are gentle and show concern for the needs of people. Their first concern is for spiritual growth. Butcher leaders are harsh and abusive in their talk and action. Although they want to see progress, they are not really concerned about the spiritual needs of people.

The Apostle Paul wrote 2 Corinthians to prepare the church for his third visit. The false super apostles had done a lot of spiritual damage to the church. Paul compared his leadership to the leadership of the false apostles when he wrote: *Now I am ready to visit you for the third time, and I will not be a burden to you, because what I want is not your possessions but you. After all, children should not have to save up for their parents, but parents for their children. So I will very gladly spend for you everything I have and expend myself as well. If I love you more, will you love me less?*(2 Cor. 12:14-15).

A shepherd-leader who loves his sheep will gladly _____ the things he has to help his sheep.

5. A shepherd-leader does not become a burden to those under his care. Instead he spends the things he has to help them.

Paul reminded the Corinthian Church that he had sent shepherd-leaders to help them. *Did I exploit you through any of the men I sent you? I urged Titus to go to you and I sent our brother with him. Titus did not exploit you, did he? Did we not act in the same spirit and follow the same course?*(2 Cor. 12:17-18).

Titus followed the same spirit and same course of action as Paul by giving _____ leadership to the Corinthian Church.

6. Titus, whom Paul had trained and mentored, gave shepherd-leadership to the church at Corinth.

Paul reminded the Corinthian Church of his approach to leadership. *We have been speaking in the sight of God as those in Christ; and everything we do, dear friends, is for your strengthening. For I am afraid that when I come I may not find you as I want you to be, and you may not find me as you want me to be. I fear that there may be quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, factions, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder. I am afraid that when I come again my God will humble me before you, and I will be grieved over many who have sinned earlier and have not repented of the impurity, sexual sin and debauchery in which they have indulged* (2 Cor. 12:19-21).

What are the things Paul feared he would find in the Church at Corinth as a result of the influence of the false super apostles? _____

7. The false super apostles did nothing to bring about spiritual maturity. Their leadership did a lot of spiritual destruction. Paul feared that sinful attitudes of quarreling, jealousy, anger, factions, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder would be common among the members. He feared that sinful activities such as impurity, sexual sin and debauchery were still going on among the church members. False shepherds usually neglect righteousness and moral purity while focusing on worldly goals.

Another example of a false shepherd is the hired worker. Jesus compared his shepherd-leadership to that of a hired worker. He said, *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the*

sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep"(John 10:11-13).

When Satan attacks, the hired shepherd will _____ because he cares

8. The hired shepherd runs away when Satan attacks because he cares nothing about the needs of God's children. The hired worker is only looking for a way to make money. He is willing to do any kind of work as long as he gets paid. He does not feel called by God to serve others. He is not willing to risk his life for other people. He is not there to serve, but to get money. He has no love for the people. He quickly leaves when Satan begins to challenge him in his leadership. Anyone who takes a leadership position in God's work just to have a job usually does not last long or he figures out a way to compromise with Satan so that he can keep his job.

Some false shepherds try to drive their sheep like cowboys. Cowboys use whips to hurt the cows. They ride on horses to intimidate the cows and force them to go in the right direction. Cowboy style shepherds try to force members to go in the right direction through intimidation and harsh punishments. They force people to do the right thing out of fear. People go in the right direction because they fear the leader, not because they fear God. The spiritual shepherd-leader does not have to force people to do the right thing. Instead, the people follow his example and his teachings because they trust him. They know he cares for them and they have confidence that he knows the things that are best for them.

Cowboy style leaders try to _____ people to do the right thing.

9. It never ends well when you force people to do the right thing. It is best when they want to do it because they are convinced that you are showing them the best way to do it. Spiritual maturity comes when people follow God's righteous ways because they believe it is the best way to live and the best way to please God.

The policeman style of shepherding is similar to the cowboy. He wants to enforce the law and keep the peace. He does not care if you understand it or like it. He just demands that you do it. These are the leaders who exercise their authority over you. Someone who has to exercise his authority does not have much leadership. Remember leadership is influence. Spiritual leadership comes when people respect you because of your wise and loving leadership, not because of the position of power that you hold. In spiritual leadership, the right to lead has to be earned, not forced. Forced leadership is not spiritual leadership. Jesus does not force us to follow him. Instead, through his wise teachings, his loving care over us and his act of love by dying on the cross for our sins, he has earned the right to lead us.

Policeman style leaders D_____ that we follow God even if we do not understand why we should.

10. Making demands of people without helping them to understand why they should follow God will end in failure. It is best when people follow God because they see God's love for them and they understand why his ways are the best for their life.

Some false shepherds approach leadership as if they are the chief or the C.E.O. (Chief Executive Officer). They are above all others and keep themselves separate from everyone else. They must be approached in a special formal way. They must always be

addressed with their formal title. At social gatherings, they must sit in a special seat of honor. They wear special clothes that indicate their high position of leadership. They never walk among the people as a common person. Very few people experience a close relationship with this kind of leader.

Chief style leaders keep themselves _____ from the people they are called to serve.

11. Chief style leadership is false shepherd-leadership because there is a separation between the leader and the people he serves. Jesus did not separate himself from the people. He did not sit in places of honor unless he was invited to do so by those in charge of the event. He walked among the crowds. People felt free to approach him with their needs without going through a formal ceremony. Read how the blind man shouted at Jesus as Jesus walked by in the crowd (Mark 10:46-52). Read how the woman with the issue of blood pushed through the crowd so she could touch Jesus (Mark 5:24-34). Jesus did not condemn her for her action, but praised her for her faith. Jesus was among the people showing his love by his actions and by his wise teachings. Jesus did not charge money for his services. He relied on the love of those whom he served to provide for his needs. This is shepherd-leadership.

The Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:11-13, *It was he [Jesus Christ] who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors [shepherds] and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.* The Apostle Paul named five positions of leadership that Jesus established in the church for the purpose of bringing his people to spiritual maturity.

There are five positions of leadership mentioned in this passage. List them below:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 3. _____ | |

12. The Apostle Paul told the church at Ephesus that Jesus had called people to become apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds and teachers for the purpose of bringing his people to spiritual maturity. Let us look at the work of each of these leadership positions to understand how each would bring spiritual maturity to the church.

The word apostle means someone who has been sent out. Jesus trained and sent out the twelve apostles to establish his church. The Apostle Paul explains it well in 2 Corinthians 5:19-20: *God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.* Apostles are sent out to represent God by making an appeal for people to be reconciled to God through Jesus Christ. Present day missionaries are examples of apostles. They travel outside of their culture to bring God's appeal to new unreached cultures, to places where the good news about Jesus has not been heard or fully understood.

Does the work of an apostle carry any position of forced authority over the people in the new culture he visits? _____

13. The work of an apostle is not a position of authority over the people where he goes. He has authority from God to make an appeal but he has no authority to demand. He brings God's appeal to the people. He is there to serve. He serves God by taking the appeal to a new group of people. He serves the people by helping them to understand God's appeal and become reconciled to God through Jesus Christ. An apostle is a shepherd-leader.

The Apostle Paul explained the work of a prophet in 1 Corinthians 14:3: *But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort.* The work of a prophet was to bring God's message to those who were already followers. It was their job to use God's truth to strengthen, encourage and comfort the Christian. The Holy Spirit guided them in knowing which godly truth to use in helping each Christian to mature.

Does the work of a prophet carry any position of forced authority over the Christian he is trying to help? _____

14. Prophets brought the appropriate message from God through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, but they had no authority to force a person to accept it. They were to strengthen, encourage and comfort, but not to force people to follow God.

The evangelist was to proclaim the good news about Jesus Christ to those who were not yet saved. It was his job to explain how the sacrifice of Jesus was necessary for our reconciliation with God. He was to explain how people could become reconciled to God through Jesus Christ and to encourage them to do it. He also mentored and gave training to local church leaders. The main difference between an apostle and an evangelist is that an apostle was usually the church planter or the one who first went into a new area to proclaim the good news. The evangelist came later to help build up the church through evangelistic efforts and mentoring leaders. Timothy, Titus and Apollos are examples of evangelists in the New Testament.

The Apostle Paul gave this advice to Timothy: *And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will (2 Timothy 2:24-26).*

Does the work of an evangelist carry any position of forced authority over those he is called to help? _____

15. The evangelist was to win people over to God's ways through love and gentle instruction. He did not force God's ways on anyone nor was he to lead people by force. In the passage of scripture quoted above, Paul said this is the way of the *Lord's servant*. Everyone who is the Lord's servant must be kind to everyone and he must be gentle in the way he does his work. That is shepherd-leadership.

The grammar of the original Greek in Ephesians 4:11 indicates that shepherds (pastors) and teachers were two names for the same position of leadership. Most likely Paul was referring to the position of elder in the local church. The elder was the highest position of leadership within a church. He was called an elder because he had experience in following God that gave him spiritual wisdom which enabled him to provide spiritual leadership. He was called a shepherd because he was called to take care of the immature Christians within the church. He was called an overseer because he was responsible for organizing the affairs of the church so that it would accomplish God's purpose. There was always a group of elders in every church. No church had just one elder. Paul may have called them teachers in Ephesians 4:11 because the main responsibility of teaching the members how to follow God fell on the elders. Evangelists, apostles and prophets might go

from church to church, but elders are always there. And, there is always a need for teaching in the church.

Does the work of a shepherd/elder carry any position of forced authority over the church members? _____

16. Elders are never called to force their authority onto the church members. The Apostle Peter wrote, *To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock* (1 Peter 5:1-3). Elders are to be shepherd-leaders who earn the right to lead by earning the respect of the members.

The writer of Hebrews gave this advice to church members: *Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you* (Hebrews 13:17). Church members are urged to follow their leaders out of respect for the good work they are doing. Elders have authority, but it is not forced authority. It is authority that is earned through their loving shepherd-leadership.

Can you think of any position of leadership in the Lord's kingdom that should require forced leadership? If so, explain it. _____

17. God never calls us to force our leadership on others. He calls us to earn the right to lead others through shepherd-leadership. God is our shepherd-leader. He does not force us to follow him. It is true that some day he will judge us. When he does, he will have the right to punish us because he first loved us. If we refuse to accept his love and if we refuse to return love to him we have rejected the good he has planned for us. God has not rejected us, but we have rejected him.

When others reject our godly shepherd-leadership, remember that they are not rejecting us, they are rejecting God's leadership through us. We are God's ambassadors bringing God's appeal to them. That is why we must be sure that we are leading in the way God has called us to lead. We must not be using worldly wisdom or worldly ways to lead God's people. When we do, we become a false shepherd.

God used the example of a shepherd caring for his sheep to explain his leadership to the Jews of the Old Testament. God used the example of a shepherd to explain the leadership of his kings and his prophets in the Old Testament. Jesus used the example of a shepherd to explain his style of leadership to his disciples and to his Apostles. The Apostles used the example of a shepherd to explain the leadership of elders in the local church. The world cannot provide a better model for spiritual leadership than a shepherd caring for his sheep.

Explain in your own words why you feel shepherd style leadership is the best model for spiritual leadership. _____

Unit Nine: BE A SHEPHERD-LEADER

Lesson Five: Self-Pride, the Enemy of Shepherd-Leadership

1. If we could use only one word to describe shepherd-leadership, it would probably be the word *gentle*. The shepherd was always gentle with his sheep. Everything he did for them was done out of love and that love was shown through a gentle spirit.

If we could use one word to describe the opposite of shepherd-leadership, that word would probably be *self-pride*. Self-pride is self-love. Self-pride is the enemy of shepherd-leadership.

Shepherd-leadership is G_____ love while self-pride is _____-love.

2. We cannot show gentle love for others when we have self-love or self-pride. Self-pride may be the root cause of all evil.

Let us start with a brief study of Satan. About 580 years before Christ, Ethbaal, the King of Tyre, claimed to be a god (Ezekiel 28:2). The king's pride prompted Jehovah God to send a message to the king through the Prophet Ezekiel. Part of this prophecy, Ezekiel 28:12-19, seems to be a description of Satan. As Ezekiel described the fall of Satan, he was also, in some way, describing the fall that was going to come upon King Ethbaal.

Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: "This is what the Sovereign Lord says:

You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings. By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching. All the nations who knew you are appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more"(Ezekiel 28:12-19).

The person described in this prophecy was a beautiful guardian Cherub (angel) whom God had created. He walked freely in the presence of God and had been blameless until wickedness was found in him. He became filled with violence and he sinned. God expelled the angel from his presence and threw the angel to the earth. The angel came to a horrible end.

Read the scripture again and complete the sentence below.

Satan's heart became _____ because of his beauty. His wisdom became _____ because of his splendor.

3. Satan led a rebellion against God. Some of the angels joined Satan in the rebellion. Satan and his followers were thrown down to the earth (Job 4:18, Matthew 25:41, 2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6, Revelation 12:9). Today, Satan is their leader and the other angels are his demon followers who do evil and encourage evil on this earth. All of this came about because Satan became proud of the beauty God had given to him. His spiritual wisdom became corrupted because of the confidence he had in the splendor (brightness and glory) God had given to him. Instead of giving God the praise and honor for his beauty and his splendor, Satan took it as an excuse to claim to be a god (just like the king of Tyre had done). Satan became a wicked angel because he no longer followed spiritual wisdom. He was corrupted, violent and sinful.

Self-pride is an unrealistic, exaggerated opinion of ones abilities, value, and importance. Self-pride leads a person to believe that he knows better than anyone else the things that are best. Self-pride led Satan to rebel against God. Self-esteem or self-respect are different from self-pride. A person with self-respect knows that he is valuable and important to others but he also knows that he is not perfect in every way. He knows that his value lies in his ability to be a blessing to others. A Christian has self-respect because he knows he is loved by God and is valuable to God. He also knows that his value depends upon fulfilling God's purpose for his life. A shepherd-leader is humble before God and before men.

In your own words explain the difference between self-pride and a shepherd-leader.

4. A shepherd-leader has love for others and wants to be a blessing to others. A prideful person has self-love and wants others to be a blessing to him. Pride has both a good side and a bad side. Pride can be a good thing when we take pride in the way we serve others. We do our best to be a blessing to others. We want to do the best we can to help others. Pride can be a bad thing when we feel we are better than others. Pride becomes self-deceiving when we feel we are more important or that we know better than others the things that are best.

We can find some element of self-pride in every sin. The first sin of mankind was committed by Eve and then Adam. God forbid them to eat fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Satan told half-truths and half-lies to deceive Eve about the results that would come from eating the fruit. *When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it* (Genesis 3:6).

Eve felt she had three reasons to eat the forbidden fruit. Which one of the three reasons had an element of self-pride? _____

5. Satan told Eve that the fruit would enable her to be like God, knowing good and evil (Genesis 3:5). That was a half-truth and a half-lie. It was true that she would be like God in a small way of having the knowledge, but that knowledge would not make her fully like God. She felt it would help her gain wisdom and enable her to be like God. Self-pride caused her to want wisdom at any cost even if it meant disobeying God. Any time we insist on having something that God has not enabled us to have, it is our pride that leads us to demand it and obtain it at the cost of disobeying God. Eve did not understand the burden of temptations she would have to carry once she had the knowledge of good and evil. The

knowledge did not make her wise nor fully like God. Satan deceived her into thinking it would make her wise. Her self-pride encouraged her to believe him.

When we disobey God in order to obtain something that we feel will make our life better we usually find out that we have been D _____.

6. Satan tries to deceive us into believing that disobeying God will make our life better. Our self-pride will encourage us to believe Satan's lies. In the end we will suffer because we followed our prideful feelings.

Self-pride can grow slowly in our life. It can sneak into our life little by little so that we do not realize we have yielded to its temptations. Many good leaders started out as humble shepherd-leaders. However, as they became successful at helping others, their pride slowly turned from love for others to self-love. King Uzziah of the Old Testament is an example of this.

Uzziah was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-two years. . . . He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, just as his father Amaziah had done. He sought God during the days of Zechariah, who instructed him in the fear of God. As long as he sought the Lord, God gave him success (2 Chronicles 26:3-5).

Uzziah was successful because he:

a. did what was _____.

b. sought the _____.

7. Although Uzziah became king when he was a young man of only sixteen years, he was successful because he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and he sought the Lord. However, after he became successful, things changed.

But after Uzziah became powerful, his pride led to his downfall. He was unfaithful to the Lord his God, and entered the temple of the Lord to burn incense on the altar of incense. Azariah the priest with eighty other courageous priests of the Lord followed him in. They confronted him and said, "It is not right for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the Lord. That is for the priests, the descendants of Aaron, who have been consecrated to burn incense. Leave the sanctuary, for you have been unfaithful; and you will not be honored by the Lord God."

Uzziah, who had a censer in his hand ready to burn incense, became angry. While he was raging at the priests in their presence before the incense altar in the Lord's temple, leprosy broke out on his forehead. When Azariah the chief priest and all the other priests looked at him, they saw that he had leprosy on his forehead, so they hurried him out. Indeed, he himself was eager to leave, because the Lord had afflicted him.

King Uzziah had leprosy until the day he died. He lived in a separate house --leprosy, and excluded from the temple of the Lord. Jotham his son had charge of the palace and governed the people of the land (2 Chron. 26:16-21).

Although the priests of the temple tried to stop Uzziah, he insisted that he was qualified to

_____.

8. Uzziah was a good king until his success caused him to have self-pride. He felt he could carry out the duties of a priest in the temple. He did not consult with anyone before trying to burn incense in the Holy Place of the temple. Only those who had been properly trained and qualified as priests were allowed to enter the temple. When the priests tried to stop him, he became very angry. God humbled him by giving him leprosy which caused him

to live in isolation the rest of his life. His son had to take over the duties of his leadership.

Hezekiah was also a successful king (2 Chronicles 29:1). Once when Hezekiah was sick, God promised to heal him and God gave him a miraculous sign to prove that he would get well (2 Kings 20:1-11). However, Hezekiah's self-pride got him into trouble.

In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. He prayed to the Lord, who answered him and gave him a miraculous sign. But Hezekiah's heart was proud and he did not respond to the kindness shown him; therefore the Lord's wrath was on him and on Judah and Jerusalem. Then Hezekiah repented of the pride of his heart, as did the people of Jerusalem; therefore the Lord's wrath did not come upon them during the days of Hezekiah (2 Chron. 32:24-26).

Both King Uzziah and King Hezekiah offended God because of self-pride. King Uzziah was punished with leprosy. Why did the wrath of God not come upon King Hezekiah?

9. King Hezekiah repented of the pride in his heart. God did not punish King Hezekiah because he repented. However, when the priests warned Uzziah that he was making a mistake he became angry and refused to stop.

We all make mistakes. Sometimes our pride becomes self-pride and gets us into trouble. We must quickly admit our mistake and repent. Sometimes self-pride will prevent us from admitting that we made a mistake or did a sinful thing. God cannot forgive those who refuse to repent. When God gave the Law of Moses to the Israelites, he warned them that his blessings could also become the cause of their failure.

When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you. Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery (Deuteronomy 8:10-14).

What danger do we face when we become successful because of God's blessings?

10. We must never forget the reason we are successful. We must always give God the glory and honor for every good thing that we do. When we stop giving God the glory, we begin to give ourselves the glory. We begin to neglect his teachings and his ways of righteousness. We begin to trust our sinful-nature instead of looking to God for guidance and blessings. We become like Satan who rebelled against his creator. Self-pride will cause us to forget God.

James warned us, *Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil (James 4:13-16).*

Self-pride can lead us to the evil sin of _____.

11. Boasting is an evil sin because it brings glory on ourselves instead of praising God who makes all good things possible.

James reminds us that all good things come from God. *Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created* (James 1:16-18).

We must not let self-pride deceive us. Every good thing in our life is made possible because _____.

12. Every good thing in our life is a gift from God. Without his blessings we would be nothing. We can never boast in our own achievements. We must always give God the glory for our success.

My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you (James 1:19-21).

We cannot save ourselves. The only thing that can save us from the wrath of God is to accept _____.

13. Self-pride will deceive us. We must never think we no longer need to read and study God's word. A humble heart will lead us to accept and follow God's word daily.

James reminded us that reading God's word is not enough. *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it--he will be blessed in what he does* (James 1:22-25).

Why is Bible knowledge not enough to please God? _____

14. Bible knowledge is not the same as godly living. We must examine our life and make sure we are following God's ways which are revealed in the Bible. The shepherd-leader knows and follows God's Word. He flees from self-pride by seeking to know God's will for his daily life.

We are tempted by self-pride to use worldly ways and worldly wisdom to become successful. James gave us this warning: *You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit [Holy Spirit] he caused to live in us envies intensely? But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up* (James 4:4-10).

Using worldly ways to serve God is like being an adulterous person who want to be friends with both _____ and the _____. Such a person is _____-minded.

15. We cannot please both God and the world. Satan is called the god of this world. To please the world is to please Satan. Such a person is double-minded. He is trying to love God and love the world at the same time.

Eve felt that the knowledge of good and evil would give her wisdom. Sometimes we feel that discovering the ways of the world can give us wisdom. *If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does* (James 1:5-8).

We must trust God and not _____ that God's ways are the wisest. When we seek wisdom from both God and the world, we are double-minded and _____ in all that we do.

What will the person who doubts God's wisdom receive from God? _____

16. The person who doubts God's wisdom will receive nothing from God. We must never doubt God's wisdom revealed in his word, the Bible. Self-pride will cause us to follow God's ways and worldly ways at the same time. We will be unstable. Our life will be in confusion. As a leader, we will cause others to become confused.

Self-pride will prevent us from gaining wisdom. Read the scriptures at the end of each statement below and complete each statement concerning wisdom.

- a. Wise people _____ and add to their _____. Prov 1:5
 - b. A wise person will _____ to _____. Prov 8:33
 - c. A wise person accepts _____. Prov. 10:8
 - d. A wise man stores up _____. Prov 10:14
 - e. A wise man controls his _____. Prov. 10:19
 - f. A wise man listens to _____ and accepts _____. Prov 19:20
 - g. Self-pride is worse than being a _____ person. Prov 26:12,
 - h. A wise person will fear _____ and avoid _____. Prov. 3:7
- *****

17. Self-pride is the enemy of wisdom. People with self-pride will not listen so that they can add to their learning. They will not listen to someone who is trying to give them valuable instructions. They will not accept rebuke when they sin or make a mistake. They will not store up knowledge because they think they already know all they need to know. They will not try to control their tongue. They will not listen to advice and instruction. There is less hope for a prideful person than for a foolish person. The wise person will always fear God and he will always avoid evil.

Self-pride is a dangerous thing. It can lead to confusion, foolishness and all kinds of sin. Here are some other mistakes that self-pride can deceive us into doing. Read the scripture and complete the list below:

Self-pride will cause us to:

- a. Psalm 31:18 - - - speak _____.
- b. Psalm 56:2 - - - _____ others.
- c. Psalm 59:12 - - - Speak _____ and _____.

d. Proverbs 13:10 - _____

18. Self-pride can lead us to speak arrogantly, to attack others, to speak curses and lies against others and to quarrel.

Self-pride will deceive us into believing that we do not have to live the righteous life that God requires others to live. *The Lord detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished* (Proverbs 16:5). Here is a list of things self-pride will bring on us if we are not careful. Read the scripture and complete the list.

Self-pride will bring:

- a. Proverbs 11:2 -- _____
- b. Proverbs 16:18 _____
- c. Obadiah 1:3 - - - self-_____

19. Self-pride brings disgrace, destruction and self-deception. The person, who takes pride in the things God has accomplished through him as if he is the one who produced them, deceives himself. Self-deception will lead him to do things that bring disgrace and destruction into his life.

Proverbs 11:2

When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

What is the path way to wisdom? _____

20. Humility is the path way to wisdom. Remember God opposes the proud, but he gives grace to the humble (James 4:6).

There was division in the church at Corinth over who was the most important leader. Members took pride in who baptized them. The Apostle Paul explained that all leaders are only servants of God who do the work God requires of them. No one leader is more important than the others. It is God who makes the church to grow. Paul used the evangelist Apollos as an example.

Now, brothers, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, "Do not go beyond what is written." Then you will not take pride in one man over against another. For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?(1 Corinthians 4:6-7).

Self-pride will deceive us into going _____ what is written by making up our own teachings.

21. The church is full of man-made teachings that go beyond the things God has asked us to do. Many of those man-made teachings came from the self-pride of leaders, leaders who thought they knew better than God. These man-made teachings bring quarrels and division. Satan thought he was different from the other angels. His self-pride corrupted his wisdom and led him to rebel against God. He became wicked, violent and sinful. Let us be careful we do not make the same mistake as Satan.

What are the dangers of self-pride?

How can we avoid self-pride?

PERSONAL NOTES FOR PERSONAL GROWTH:

Are there any areas in your life or in your leadership where self-pride could cause you to become self-deceived or to have a wrong attitude? Make a plan for how you will avoid self-pride in these areas in your life.
