

The Great Shepherd



Prayer:

Icebreaker: Name some examples of Old Testament shepherds who walked with God.

Why would God compare His people to sheep, and His care for us to that of a shepherd?

1. Everyone turn to the following references one at a time. Then discuss God's indictment and judgment against His under-shepherds (Israel's spiritual leaders) who failed to love and give proper care for His sheep? How can we apply this to our own responsibilities in overseeing those under our care today in the home and in the church?

Ezekiel 34:1-9

Jeremiah 34:1-2

The following verses in question 2 will find their ultimate fulfillment for Israel during the coming Millennial Kingdom.

2. How does God demonstrate the true heart of a shepherd for His sheep?

Ezekiel 34:11-16

Jeremiah 23:1-4

3. How does Psalm 23 describe the abundant life that our Great Shepherd came to give His sheep? John 10:10 Discuss each phrase.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want -

He makes me to lie down in green pastures -

He leads me beside the still waters -

He restores my soul -

He leads me in the paths of righteousness -

For His name's sake -

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil -

For You are with me -

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me -

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies -

You anoint my head with oil -

My cup runs over -

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life -

And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever -

Think about it this week:

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.