

## A Church That SHEPHERDS

### Acts 20:1-38

In what way are all of us called to individually shepherd or care for those among God's people?

#### **Read Acts 20:7-12**

What kinds of shepherding actions do you see occur as Paul spends time with the Christians at Troas?

In a snapshot, we see five powerful elements of shepherding:

- Christians who shepherd seek out opportunities to be with other Christians.
  - Why is it important for our lives to be interconnected with other Christians?
  
- Christians who shepherd help others go into God's presence.
  - Describe the actions of someone in the church that helps you move into God's presence and see God's movement in your life.
  
- Christians who shepherd talk about God and the power of His grace in our lives.
  - How will talking about God and holding up the standard of Jesus help you to shepherd someone close to you?
  
- Christians who shepherd rush to meet the needs of one who is hurting.
  - How powerful is the impact of someone's compassion during a time of pain and hurt?
  
- Christians who shepherd wrap another person in the arms of God's love.
  - How can a pat on the back or a gentle hug help someone?

## A Church That SHEPHERDS (With Notes)

### Acts 20:1-38

In what way are all of us called to individually shepherd or care for those among God's people?

Personal reflection...

#### Read Acts 20:7-12

What kinds of shepherding actions do you see occur as Paul spends time with the Christians at Troas?

Paul is on the final leg of his missionary journey. He has stopped at Troas, a port city, on his way to Jerusalem. Here he gathers with the Christians and spends time with them before he continues on his way. It is Sunday night and the Christians have gathered together to break bread and hear the word of God. As Paul preaches, a young man named Eutychus falls asleep and tumbles out of a third story window. Paul rushes downstairs, embraces the young man, and God restores life to Eutychus.

In a snapshot, we see five powerful elements of shepherding:

- Christians who shepherd seek out opportunities to be with other Christians. **We cannot be the people God has called us to be in isolation. Shepherds live among the flock. A shepherd's life is intertwined with the lives of his lambs.**
  - Why is it important for our lives to be interconnected with other Christians?

Personal reflection...

- Christians who shepherd help others go into God's presence. **The time that Christians spend together is to have a powerful purpose and focus. It is more than just eating together. It is about helping others move into God's presence through encouragement and using the gifts we have been given.**
  - Describe the actions of someone in the church that helps you move into God's presence and see God's movement in your life.

Personal reflection...

- Christians who shepherd talk about God and the power of His grace in our lives. **As Paul preaches to the Christians in Troas, he encourages the elders in Ephesus. He points them to God. He holds us the standard of truth and encourages them to lives like Jesus.**
  - How will talking about God and holding up the standard of Jesus help you to shepherd someone close to you?

Personal reflection...

- Christians who shepherd rush to me the needs of one who is hurting. **Tending to the wounded and helping the broken are the primary functions of shepherding. The health of each individual sheep is precious to our Shepherd and He calls us to look out for each other and walk with those who are hurting.**
  - How powerful is the impact of someone's compassion during a time of pain and hurt?

Personal reflection...

- Christians who shepherd wrap another person in the arms of God's love. **The picture of Paul with his arms around Eutychus is a powerful one. Equally powerful is the picture of the Ephesian elders with their arms around Paul at the end of Acts 20. Touch is essential to the shepherds care of the sheep. We are to touch one another's lives.**
  - How can a pat on the back or a gentle hug help someone?

Personal reflection...