



Shepherd Acrostic

This S-H-E-P-H-E-R-D acrostic helps Community Bible Study (CBS) Core Leaders lead and encourage those whom God has entrusted to their care.

Seek—Look to the Lord first and foremost. He is the One who has called you to serve and He will be faithful to give you everything you need.

Hear—Make every effort to listen. Hear the “heart behind the words” to help you discern your Core Group participant's perspective.

Eyes—Observe how participants react in the group. What is their body language saying? Do they sit with friends during the Teaching or are they always alone? Consider inviting them to lunch or coffee.

Pray—Pray for those you shepherd. Even if you don't know specifically what to pray for at times, God knows what each one needs. Pray for His guidance.

Help—Caring begins by asking people how they are doing and then responding to a need. Shepherding a participant in need might mean sitting down and spending time talking and praying, providing a meal, or making a hospital visit.

Encourage—Everyone can use encouragement. Give a word of encouragement on the way to the Teaching or after class. Be attentive to things going on in Core Group participants' lives. Send cards for birthdays, illness, or just to say “I've missed you and hope all is well.”

Real—Be real. We are all imperfect people. We all need the Lord. Pray to be authentic in your relationships with your Core Group participants.

Different—Remember that each person is unique. Ask God to help you love and shepherd all your Core Group participants regardless of their responses to the class, Bible study, or shepherding connections.

“Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly – not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God.”

1 Peter 5:2 (NLT)
