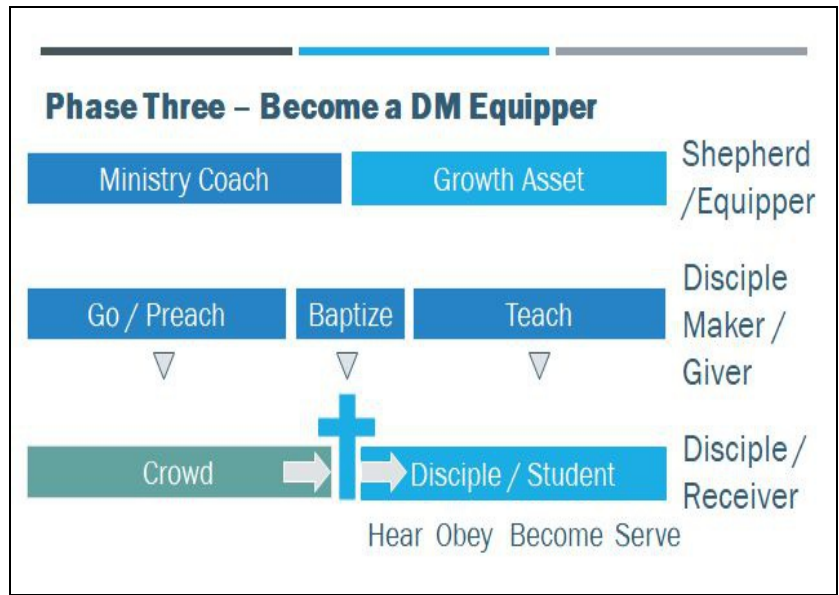


Shepherdology 101 Outline

- I. **Fundamental 1: Jesus, Our Lord**
- II. **Fundamental 2: Jesus' Word, Our Effective Guide**
- III. **Fundamental 3: Jesus, Our Model Shepherd**
- IV. **The Need for Shepherds**
- V. **The Development of Elders**
- VI. **Ten Key Passages**
- VII. **Essential Function**
 - A. Elder: Man of seasoned character and maturity
 - B. Overseer: One who understands his people and is watching out for them
 - C. Shepherd: One who feeds, cares for, and protects the flock
 - D. Leader: One who governs by assessing and identifying what is best
 - E. Equipping: One who trains and outfits others for growth and effective ministry
 - F. Manage / Care for: One who is attentive to others in order to actively promote what is in their best interests



VIII. Specific Responsibilities

- A. Guard: Alert to the condition of his flock
- B. Teach: Brings the Word to bear
- C. Illustrate: Demonstrates a positive example
- D. Help: Provides practical assistance
- E. Intercede: Prays for key needs
- F. Show Hospitality: Uses personal resources to serve others' good

We have considered the first three of these specific responsibilities, now let's examine three more tools in the shepherd's toolkit.

D. Help

"I have coveted no one's silver or gold or clothes. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my own needs and to the men who were with me. In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'" (Acts 20:33–35).

The recipient of this ministry of helps is described as one who is "weak" based on the Greek word *astheneō* (ἀσθενέω).

Paul worked hard in order to generate resources that could be deployed for the benefit of others. Paul is calling on elders to follow his example: They are to avoid ministering for personal gain and instead find ways to deploy their money and resources to help those who are sick and weak.

"Those who are sickly you have not strengthened, the diseased you have not healed, the broken you have not bound up, the scattered you have not brought back, nor have you sought for the lost; but with force and with severity you have dominated them" (Ezekiel 34:4).

Good shepherds care for the spiritual well-being of their sheep, to be sure, but they are also attentive to their material situation and looking for ways to help.

He who oppresses the poor taunts his Maker, But he who is gracious to the needy honors Him (Proverbs 14:31).

One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the Lord, And He will repay him for his good deed (Proverbs 19:17).

And He also went on to say to the one who had invited Him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, otherwise they may also invite you in return and that will be your repayment. But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous" (Luke 14:12–14).

E. Intercede

Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church, and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him (James 5:14–15).

James says, "Pray for the sick." Paul would add, "Don't just pray for them. Help them too!"

James clearly indicates that such a ministry of intercession can lead to miraculous healing.

If God has communicated to the elders that He intends to raise this person up, then prayer fueled by trust in that statement will be effective.

This prayer over someone should include “anointing him with oil.”

And they were casting out many demons and were anointing with oil many sick people and healing them (Mark 6:13).

The bottom line is that elders should come as requested to those who are seriously sick and pray over them.

Their interaction should include consideration of how someone’s condition may be related to personal sin. Where this is the case, they would encourage confession and ask for the Lord to forgive accordingly. As God declares His intent to restore someone, the elders should boldly pray in faith for God to do so. The elders ought also to apply oil to the one for whom they pray as a symbol of their desire for restoration in the name of the Lord.

So, when someone calls for the elders, what should happen? The elders would gather in a home, perhaps at a bedside. They might ask, “What can you tell us about what you are facing?” Then they would ask, “How is your spiritual health? Are there ways in which your relationship with the Lord has gotten off track? We are asking because there are times when sickness and sin are connected.”

As appropriate, they would encourage a time of confession and then thank the Lord for His forgiveness. They would pray for the one who is sick and ask God for healing and restoration. They would anoint the one who is sick with oil as a sign of their devotion and dependence on God. They would thereby declare their trust in the Lord as the One who heals.

F. Show Hospitality

“Hospitable” (*philoxenos*, φιλόξενος) denotes a qualification for an elder (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8).

Be hospitable to one another without complaint (1 Peter 4:9).

The cognate noun, “hospitality” (*philoxenia*, φιλοξενία), is also found in exhortations to saints in general.

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it (Hebrews 13:2).

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love ... practicing hospitality (Romans 12:10, 13).

Clearly, elders are to provide a healthy model of a hospitality ministry for the congregation to observe.

An elder does so with discrimination.

When we put this all together, it looks like a daunting assignment!

Essential Function	Tools of the Trade
Elder: Man of seasoned character and maturity	Guard: Alert to the condition of his flock
Overseer: One who understands his people and is watching out for them	Teach: Brings the Word to bear
Shepherd: One who feeds, cares for, and protects the flock	Illustrate: Demonstrates a positive example
Leader: One who governs by assessing and identifying what is best	Help: Provides practical assistance
Equipping: One who trains and outfits others for growth and effective ministry	Intercede: Prays for key needs
Manage / Care for: One who is attentive to others in order to actively promote what is in their best interests	Show Hospitality: Uses personal resources to serve others' good

Shepherds should do what they do from a conviction that this is God's will for them.

Shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God (1 Peter 5:2).

"According to God" means "because God wills it."

Shepherds who embrace God's call enjoy an incredible benefit:

Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip (katartizō, καταρτίζω) you in every good thing to do His will (Hebrews 13:20-21).

God is the ultimate equipper who raised our great Shepherd and who will supply everything we need to do His will as shepherds.

Discussion Guide

Discussion Question: Look at the table (on page six of these notes) and reflect on any experiences you have had with a shepherd who well demonstrated one of these descriptions in his ministry. What did he do? Have you personally been the recipient of a ministry that is captured in one of these descriptions? Describe what a shepherd did for you and what was the result?

Discussion Question: What would our church be like if everyone who calls First Evan their home had a shepherd who was actively engaged in their lives in ways that are described by the chart on page six.

Discussion Question: Have you ever been the recipient of help from an elder? Have elders ever come to your house to pray for you when sick? Have you enjoyed hospitality from an elder? Describe what happened? How common do you think it is at our church and in most churches for elder-shepherds to engage with their flock in these practical ways?

Discussion Question: Jim mentioned the idea of embracing the role of shepherd as a response to God's calling. Have you sensed God calling you to such a role? (Women, have you sensed God calling you to invest in younger women? Something else?) In what way has God impressed on you the need to embrace such a ministry? Have you said, "Yes?" What's next?

Discussion Question: Based on what we have learned so far about good shepherding, what is one "change for the better" that you would suggest for our church? How could we, specifically, do a better job of shepherding at First Evan?

Shepherdology Self-Check

By the end of our course on Shepherdology, you should be able to answer these twenty questions. So far, we have covered content that answers to questions 1-12. See how well you can answer these questions in your group?

1. What kind of laborers does Jesus want us to ask the Lord of the Harvest to supply? How do you know your answer is correct?
2. How does the fact that Jesus is Lord of the church relate to the question of understanding what shepherds do?
3. Explain what is meant by the sufficiency, necessity, and clarity of God's word. What single statement captures the essence of all three?
4. How do the sufficiency, necessity, and clarity of God's word relate to the study of shepherdology?
5. What advantages are associated with a word-driven practice of shepherding?
6. Name at least three characteristics Jesus associates with a good shepherd in John 10.
7. In what way is the conversation reported in John 21:15–17 related to shepherds of Jesus' church today? What passage is key to your answer?
8. Cite the reference and give a basic content summary for the ten key New Testament passages that discuss shepherds/overseers/leaders/elders in the church.
9. How do we know that "shepherds," "overseers," and "elders" all refer to the same person? How do we know whether these individuals are also called "leaders?"
10. What are the four primary New Testament titles for local church leaders? What do these titles tell us about their function?
11. What verbs are used in a summary way to describe what shepherds/overseers/leaders/elders do? What do these terms tell us about what they do?
12. What are the six specific responsibilities in the tool kit of a shepherd/overseer/leader/elder? Summarize what each involves.

13. Explain how the qualifications of an elder should be used to evaluate a man's character. Defend your answer from Scripture.
14. List the seven basic categories of qualifications for an elder. Summarize what is sought in a man in each category.
15. What do 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 tell us to look for in a man's marriage and home to determine his suitability as a shepherd? In what way is there a connection between the home front and shepherding the flock?
16. List and explain at least three personal qualifications ("Good Heart") and three relational ("Relational Asset") qualifications for an elder?
17. Unpack what 1 Peter 5:1–3 tells us about the manner in which elders shepherd God's flock. Explain each of three vices and three corresponding virtues.
18. What is involved in "working hard" and "remembering?" In what ways are these ministry methods critical to the work of a shepherd? What should elders remember?
19. What are the four primary ways in which flock members are called to respond to their shepherds? Please explain each.
20. Explain the reward offered in 1 Peter 5:4 to shepherds who shepherd well.