



# Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

## 4-21-24: Good Shepherd Sunday

Theme: The Risen Savior Provides Good Shepherding

### *Acts 20:28-32*

<sup>28</sup>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. <sup>29</sup>I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. <sup>30</sup>Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. <sup>31</sup>So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

<sup>32</sup>Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

1. Share a story or a memory about one the pastors/shepherds who have served you during your life. Why was it meaningful/memorable to you?
2. Sometimes kids might hate the fact that someone is in charge of them. Sometimes sheep run away from their shepherd. For what reasons is it good to have a shepherd watching over you?
3. Agree or Disagree:
  - a. God puts pastors in spiritual charge of the flock they serve.
  - b. The flock puts pastors in spiritual charge of them.

4. Jesus will provide shepherds to watch over his flock. I suppose that's easier for us to say when we currently have 4 shepherds than it is for a congregation who is shepherdless. How do you reconcile this for congregations who are currently without shepherds?
5. Savage wolves will come to try to destroy the flock. Even inside the church, people will arise who distort the truth. What are the most prominent distortions facing us today?
6. Paul said that he warned the members of his flock nonstop for three years, day and night with tears. It's part of the shepherd's responsibility to warn. Knowing that their shepherds care about them, how are the sheep supposed to react?
7. A "parasitic" relationship (one benefits while the other is harmed) between shepherd and sheep would obviously be a bad thing. How could a shepherd become guilty of this? How might sheep become guilty of this?
8. A "commensal" relationship (one benefits while the other is neither hurt nor helped, like a whale and barnacle) is not the desired relationship between shepherd and sheep either. Why not? (give hypothetical examples for both sides)
9. God desires the relationship between shepherd and sheep to be "mutually" beneficial. What are the ways this takes shape on both sides?
10. Mount Olive's logo is pictured at the top left. There's a progression from worshipping to studying to serving to sharing. How might you take steps forward in your path of discipleship?