

KNOW THE SHEEP - KNOW THE SHEPHERD
April 2009

Leaders Guide

I. Welcome – Update “Family Data Record” *(Begin meeting by handing them the membership data sheet to verify or correct information for Libby)*

II. Share the objective of our meeting *(We want to establish at the outset that our intention as elders is to take more seriously what God calls us to do as shepherds of His people. The following scriptures help set the tone for the seriousness of the meeting.)*

A. We want to follow the Good Shepherd: “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—.” (Jesus: John 10:14)

B. The charge to us as elders and shepherds:

1. “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.” Acts 20:28

2. ”To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ’s sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.” 1 Peter 5:1-4

(We feel a bit overwhelmed in this role at times but we also feel honored to serve the Lord in this way. We want to know you better through this visit and to encourage you to grow in the Lord all the more.)

III. Conduct the Interview *(It is important to listen carefully in this part and make notes. It is also important to not spend too much time here and be short of time at the end when we want to really learn how they are doing in their walk with God. Second elder takes notes.)*

A. Family relationships *(We want to know the bigger picture of who makes up their family. Want to focus on getting some basic information without too much conversation that takes up the time. Here we are asking for: Names, City/State, and Relationship with God)*

1. Parents?
2. Siblings?
3. Children?

4. Grandchildren?

B. Relationships at Donelson *(The focus here is on learning who they have relationships with at Donelson, who they are encouraged by at Donelson outside their closer friends, and who has influenced them the most to live for God throughout their life. Remembering those who are a blessing to them will be meaningful and encouraging for them. It will also give us some insight to their spiritual welfare.)*

1. How long at DCoC? Why DCoC?
2. What relationships have become meaningful? *(The tend to quickly mention several names. Ask for one each, or the first two or three names that come to mind. Just want to see who they are most connected to at Donelson.)*
3. Who are others you appreciate? *(We are asking for people at Donelson they appreciate who are not in their circle of closer relationships. Ask for a couple of names each.)*
4. Who has influenced your walk with God the most? *(Looking for one or two over their lifetime. They will want to name several. This also gives us a chance to encouragement them at the end of the visit to be the person someone else will mention some day that pointed them to God.)*

C. **YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD** *(This is really what we want to get to with each visit, i.e. how are they doing in their walk with God? We transition from B.4. by saying something like:*

“_____, it really encourages us to hear the names of people at Donelson who are a blessing to your life in the Lord and those in your lifetime who have pointed you to God. This brings us to the real purpose of asking you to meet with us, and that is, to see how you are progressing in your relationship with God.

To help you think about that, we want to read a few samples of scripture that we think, as elders, are important to consider because they were important for the first believers in Christ to grow to appreciate.”)

1. Trust the grace of God: (Ephesians 2:8-9)

⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast.

2. Know the love of Christ for you (Eph. 3:14-19)

¹⁴For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

3. Know that God is at work in you: (Phil. 2:12-13)

¹²Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

(Eph 2:10) ¹⁰For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

4. Be effective, productive and secure (2 Pet 1:3-11)

³His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

⁵For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. ⁸For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

¹⁰Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, ¹¹and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

D. What could we pray about with you? *(By this time we should be aware of some family members we could pray for and anything they specifically ask for or we perceive that they need. It may seem appropriate to move in closer to them, hold hands with them and pray, either sitting down or standing together. Or, pray as you are.)*

Prayer

(Immediately following the prayer, close with a word of blessing from a scripture such as the following.)

A WORD OF BLESSING: ²⁰May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, ²¹equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. **Heb 13:20-21**

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you **may** overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 13:14

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

1 Thessalonians 3:13

May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. **May** your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

¹⁶May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, ¹⁷encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

2 Thessalonians 3:5

May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.

Interview Shepherds: _____ Date: _____

RELATIONSHIPS Name: _____

Living grandparents? (his) _____ (hers) _____

Parents & Siblings/Spouses

F- _____ S- _____ S- _____

M- _____ S- _____ S- _____

F- _____ S- _____ S- _____

M- _____ S- _____ S- _____

Children/Spouses & Grandchildren

C _____

C _____

C _____

C _____

C _____

A. Who are those whom you have become especially close to at Donelson?

B. Who are some you have come to appreciate at Donelson as examples?

- C. Who would you go to for spiritual guidance and counsel if you needed it?
- D. Who has had the greatest influence on your relationship with God?
- E. How would you describe where you are at this time in your relationship with God?

SAMPLES OF SCRIPTURES: “for your progress and joy...”

- F. Where do you feel the greatest need to make progress?
- G. What do you think you need to do at this point in time to grow stronger and closer to God?

SHEPHERDS’ COUNSEL (coaching) 2 Peter 1:3-11

Prayer Request

KNOW THE SHEEP EXPERIENCES AND OBSERVATIONS
(after 254 interviews with 414 sheep)
September 20, 2011

1. Every participant appreciated the visit (sometimes shedding tears).
2. Everyone returns to the body with more respect for us.
3. We have more credibility to stand before the church to speak or lead.
4. We feel more connected as we move about the church and interact.
5. We have progressed at working together as shepherds and we have a shared experience of counseling and blessing our people.
6. Interviews provide opportunities for us to share from our journeys in the Lord.
7. We have a reason to get in front of some whom we have been concerned about to assess their well-being and be God's instrument to renew them.
8. We have learned of spiritual gifts and abilities that need to be used.
9. We have heard inspiring stories of God's faithfulness.
10. We have been humbled by the struggles and hardships some have endured through life and crosses they continue to carry.
11. We know who they are closest to in the church if we need to know.
12. We know who they appreciate as examples in the church.
13. We get to remind and reinforce that that 'progress and joy in the faith' and 'Christ being formed in us' is what this is all about.
14. More of our people are coming to us for prayer at other times now.
15. We have a 'point of reference' if we need to approach them in the future.
16. We now have something in place to welcome a new family to Donelson.
17. This provides a possible interview with a visiting "church seeker."
18. Because the church knows we are doing this, someone can be seen meeting with us without feeling like others will think they have a problem.
19. Provides a great opportunity to personally validate and appreciate people.
20. Provides us with names of those in the church who are appreciated and might be good for us to pursue for ministry, etc.
21. Asking people about their journey of faith helps them express their faith, helps us see where they are in spiritual maturity and makes the basis of our fellowship more about our common bond of Jesus.

For further information on this plan, contact:

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