

Matthew 9:35–38 (NLT) *The Need for Workers* ³⁵ Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages of that area, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ He said to his disciples, “The harvest is great, but the workers are few.” ³⁸ So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.”

God’s Plan for The Confused and Helpless to Be Shepherded!

(Through workers, They Surrender To Jesus As Lord!)

God’s Plan for His Children To Be Shepherded!

(Through These Seven Ways, God Children Are Shepherded and they Shepherd Others!)

1. Jesus is the Good Shepherd (The Chief Shepherd)

John 10:11–16 (NLT) ¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. ¹² A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don’t belong to him and he isn’t their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because he’s working only for the money and doesn’t really care about the sheep. ¹⁴ “I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, ¹⁵ just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock with one shepherd.”

2. God, Our Heavenly Father is Our Shepherd (Jesus is the fulfillment of this role of the Father)

Isaiah 40:10–11 (NLT) ¹⁰ Yes, the Sovereign Lord is coming in power. He will rule with a powerful arm. See, he brings his reward with him as he comes. ¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart. He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young.

Psalms 23 (NLT) *A psalm of David.* ¹ The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need. ² He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. ³ He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name. ⁴ Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings. ⁶ Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.

3. The Holy Spirit Guides

John 16:13–14 (NLT) ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. ¹⁴ He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me.

Galatians 5:16 (NLT) *Living by the Spirit's Power* ¹⁶ So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.

4. God's Word Guides

Psalms 119:105 (NLT) ¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.

(#1–#4) The Guidance: of Jesus, God our Heavenly Father, The Word, and Holy Spirit align as one!

5. God Places Human Shepherds

Matthew 9:35–38 (NLT) (look up to the first scripture at the top of the message) Jesus is The Good Shepherd, he says pray for workers (humans) who will help people not be without shepherds! **Be Workers – Helping and Leading! - Shepherding**

Jeremiah 3:15 (NLT) ¹⁵ And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will guide you with knowledge and understanding.

Ephesians 4:1–16 (NLT) *Unity in the Body*

Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. ² Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. ³ Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. ⁴ For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. ⁵ There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all.

⁷ However, he has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ. ⁸ That is why the Scriptures say, "*When he ascended to the heights, he led a crowd of captives and gave gifts to his people.*" ⁹ Notice that it says "he ascended." This clearly means that Christ also descended to our lowly world. ¹⁰ And the same one who descended is the one who ascended higher than all the heavens, so that he might fill the entire universe with himself.

¹¹ Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹² Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. ¹³ This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. ¹⁵ Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. ¹⁶ He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

Apostles - Those who plant new churches, minister to church leadership, offer overall guidance to churches

Prophets - Those who represent God's interests to the people, having stood in the council of God and released a call to the people. They also give specific words to people.

Evangelists - Called to invite others to church and gather people into the faith community.

Pastors - Provide care, comfort, and nurture for the church's flock, meeting individual needs and fostering unity.

Teachers - Connect God's Word with His people, explaining and applying scripture to strengthen their understanding.

1 Peter 5:1–6 (NLT) *Advice for Elders and Young Men*

And now, a word to you who are elders in the churches. I, too, am an elder and a witness to the sufferings of Christ. And I, too, will share in his glory when he is revealed to the whole world. As a fellow elder, I appeal to you: ²Care 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. ³Don't lord it over the people assigned to your care, but lead them by your own good example. ⁴And when the Great Shepherd appears, you will receive a crown of never-ending glory and honor. ⁵In the same way, you who are younger must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you, dress yourselves in humility as you relate to one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." ⁶So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor.

Mutual humility between givers and receivers.

6. All Are Called to Minister

1 Peter 4:10 (NLT) ¹⁰God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.

Romans 12:6a (NLT) ⁶In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well.

1 Corinthians 12:7 (NLT) ⁷A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.

7. Equipping of The Saints

Ephesians 4:11–12 (NLT) ¹¹Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹²Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.

(NKJV) equipping of the saints for the work of ministry

(NASB95) work of service

The goal of the five-fold ministry is to "equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ".

How Equipping Happens

Preaching, teaching, training, resources, discipleship, guidance, protection, care, compassion, and practice with oversight.

We Can All Shepherd

Shepherding people means to guide, lead, and protect them with care and compassion, much like a shepherd tends to a flock of sheep. It involves giving advice, ensuring their safety, and providing emotional and spiritual support, whether through formal leadership roles like a pastor or through general acts of kindness and guidance in everyday life.

Prayer and Possible Action:

1. Understand that Jesus had compassion on people without a shepherd.
2. Allow yourself to be shepherded.
3. Understand there may be moments or situations where you are supposed to shepherd.