



Pastor Dave Browning  
February 11 & 12, 2012

### Today's Scripture: Ezekiel 34

Every one of us needs to be cared for and to care for others.

#### **We are sheep:**

1. Easily frightened, in need of protection
2. Easily lost, in need of direction
3. Easily injured, in need of nurture

#### **We are shepherds:**

With a job of protecting, leading and nurturing others

Your shepherding role may be:

- Formal
- Familial
- Friendly

### **When people (the sheep) do not get the care they deserve...**

1. God gets incensed

What the shepherds did not do:

- a. Take care of the flock
- b. Strengthen the weak
- c. Heal the sick
- d. Bind up the injured
- e. Bring back the strays
- f. Search for the lost

*(Continues on back)*

## 2. God gets involved (Ezekiel 34:7-31)

- a. Rescues the flock
- b. Gathers the flock
- c. Culls the flock
- d. Blesses the flock

### Four Aspects of the Blessing of God (Ezekiel 34:26)

1. The blessing is from above
2. The blessing is needed
3. The blessing is abundant
4. The blessing is timely

### Next Steps

If God has prompted you today to look for a way to shepherd others, here are two prime opportunities. With Easter fast approaching, these are two areas where we'll find a lot of new sheep needing new shepherds!

**Join the After Service Prayer Team.** Every weekend a form of shepherding happens after each service. The After Service Prayer Team is always on hand to invite God's presence and help into people's lives by praying with anyone who comes forward. Training is provided.

**Become an Alpha Helper or Group Leader.** The Alpha Class is the primary way CTK gets people grounded in a new relationship with Jesus. Whether participants have decided to follow Jesus or are just exploring that decision, a team of volunteer helpers and leaders shepherd them through the 10-evening class in small groups. All training and support is provided which makes this an ideal, face-to-face way to dip your toe in the water of a shepherding role.



*To find out more about volunteering in either way, please contact Melonie Kemp (meloniek@ctkbellingham.com or 360-733-1337 x216).*

#### Small Group Questions



- 1) Who have been your "shepherds" through life?
- 2) Have you ever strayed and had to be brought back by others?
- 3) Read Ezekiel 34:26. How is God showering your life with blessings right now?
- 3) Is there someone (or ones) that you sense God leading you to shepherd in some way? Tell us about it.
- 4) How can we pray for each other?