

# Fathers' Studies: Family Responsibilities

"...that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

LESSON 42 OF 52

## LEADING AS A SHEPHERD

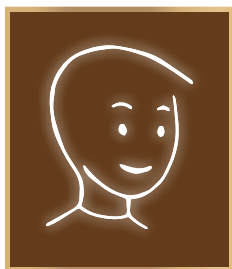
**LESSON AIM:** To understand what a good shepherd is and how a father can be that kind of leader.

### KEY VERSE:

1. **ISAIAH 40:11** God is a good shepherd. He \_\_\_\_\_ the lambs and \_\_\_\_\_ those that have young.
2. **PSALM 23:1-3** How does the Lord, the Good Shepherd, help you? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. **JOHN 10:14** A good shepherd \_\_\_\_\_ his sheep and his sheep \_\_\_\_\_ him.
4. **EZEKIEL 34:2** The leaders of Israel were bad shepherds. Instead of taking care of the people (sheep), what were they doing? \_\_\_\_\_
5. **1 PETER 5:2-3** God wants spiritual leaders to be good shepherds. What is one thing good shepherds do? \_\_\_\_\_

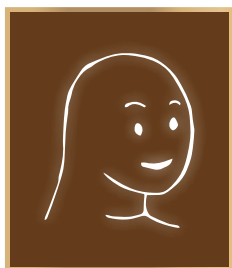
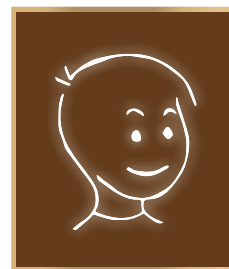
### PERSONAL NOTES:

## For You To Do



### By Yourself

When Jesus told Peter in John 21:15-17, "Take care of my sheep," He was speaking of people, not real sheep. If the sheep are your wife and children, write down three ways that you think Jesus wants you to take care of them.



### With Your Wife

Read Psalm 23 with her. Look at all the things a shepherd does for his sheep. Ask her which of those things she would like you to do more.

### With Your Children

In 1 Samuel 17:31-37, David tells how he protected his sheep. Read this story to your children. Then ask them what "lions" or "bears" they are afraid of. Assure them that you will do what you can to protect them.

# LEADING AS A SHEPHERD

LESSON 42 OF 52

Jesus called Himself the “Good Shepherd”. God called Israel His “flock”. One of the best-known passages of Scripture, Psalm 23, speaks of the Lord as “my Shepherd”.

Just before he went back to heaven, Jesus told Peter to “take care of my sheep”. The father who loves his family and loves Jesus will want to take care of them the way a shepherd takes care of his sheep. How can he do this?

**HE WALKS AHEAD OF THEM** (John 10:4). A good shepherd does not send his sheep out while he stays behind. Neither does he chase them or drive them the way a cowboy drives his cattle. He walks in front, and the sheep follow him. This keeps him very close to his sheep. A shepherd-father leads his family by example. He does not just tell his children how life should be lived—he shows them. He finds the right trails and walks there himself. His sheep follow him because they love him.

**HE KNOWS THEM** (John 10:3, 14). He has a name for each one. He knows each one’s needs, strengths, weaknesses, and fears. He does not treat them all alike but helps each sheep according to its special needs. A shepherd-father knows each one of his family in a special way.

**HE PROTECTS THEM** (John 10:11-13). When the wolf comes, he stands and fights instead of running away. The shepherd-father sees and fights against the “wolves” which come to destroy his family. These wolves are ungodly ideas and attitudes, lies from Satan and other spiritual forces. They come into the house through literature, television, music, ungodly visitors, and in other ways. The father must be able to sense spiritual danger and lead his family away from it.

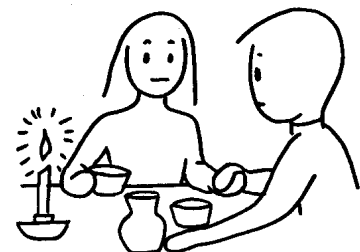
**HE GIVES UP HIS COMFORTS** (John 10:11). To take care of his sheep, a shepherd sometimes must go without sleep, food, or entertainment. Sometimes he even has to risk his life. But a shepherd-father will do this because he loves his family.

**PSALM 23, LUKE 15:3-7, JOHN 10:1-16, 27-29; HEBREWS 13:20**

**MY SHEEP HEAR MY VOICE AND I KNOW THEM. THEY FOLLOW ME.  
(JOHN 10:27)**

## WINDOW TO LIFE

When Larry came home from a week-long trip, he found his wife quite sad. To cheer up his wife, he took some special time to play with the children. Then he helped his wife put the children to bed. Then Larry and his wife sat down with a cup of tea, and Larry began asking her how things went while he was gone. He told her about his trip. As they talked, the lines began to lift from his wife’s face. When they went to bed, she was happy and free of her concerns.



**Jesus is the  
“Chief Shepherd.”**

**Jesus wants  
fathers to “take  
care of his  
sheep”.**

**A shepherd walks  
ahead of his  
sheep.**

**A shepherd  
knows his sheep.**

**A shepherd  
protects his  
sheep.**

**A shepherd  
gives up his own  
comforts for his  
sheep.**