
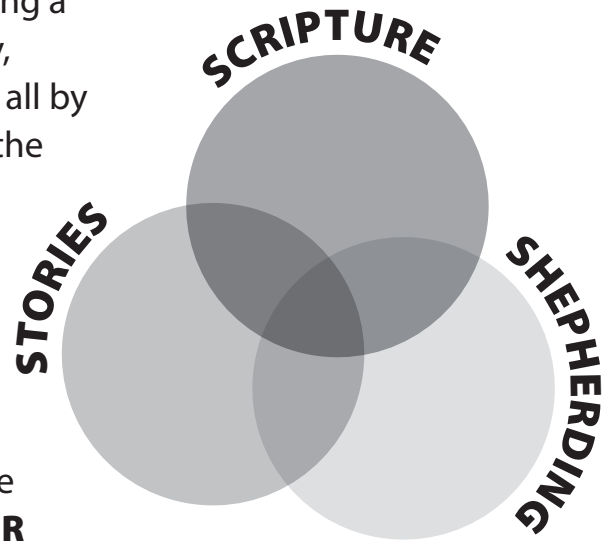


# The **SHEPHERD'S** Staff

**SHEPHERDING** a Sunday School class is 24/7/365. Being a shepherd indeed can demand a lot of time and energy, especially, as is their nature, the shepherd tries to do it all by himself. The wise shepherd, however, enlists a team—the Shepherd's Staff if you will—that will assist in the shepherding, and share in the joy it brings.

Let's identify some of the members of the shepherd's team. In The 3D Sunday School, the first book in this series, it was inferred that there should be at least one leader in each class for each of the three dimensions: an Invite (or outreach) leader, a **DISCOVER**

leader (or teacher), and a Connect (or inreach, care, ministry, hospitality) leader. We also suggested that a class that intends to reproduce itself will have an apprentice alongside each of these leaders.



A class that is serious about shepherding will also enlist a team of Care (or Connect) Group leaders. A care/connect group leader is responsible for making a weekly contact with 5-7 men or women (men contacting men, women contacting women), and reporting needs and news to the teacher, directly or through the Connect leader. In smaller adult classes, the outreach, teaching, and inreach leader can “double up” as group leaders, just as workers in preschool and children’s classes do. A class could reach an enrollment of 18-24 before additional leaders beyond the original three would be required. Yet the wise shepherd does not wait that long, but identifies and enlists care group leaders as the class grows. He trains the leaders in the use of the notebook and other shepherding skills. Who is the care group leader for the care group leaders? That would be either the teacher or the Connect leader. In a large class with a number of class leaders, the teacher will serve as the group leader for her team. I have seen dozens of different adaptations of this structure. The important thing is to establish a system where everyone is being shepherded. This is even more important if you are a teacher of a class and have a gift like teaching or exhortation. I know teachers with these gifts that do a great job as Sunday School teachers, as long as they compensate by having a great class organization.