

9. PART II **BASIC**- Building Dynamics: “*Shepherding & Flock Dynamics.*”

(REVIEW)

Small Group: Opening Text John 10:1-16

John 10:1-16 nlt *I Am the Good Shepherd*

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. ²But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he **calls** his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them.

⁷Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸All who *ever* came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. ⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. ¹² But a hireling, *he who is* not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. ¹³ The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd; and I **know** My *sheep*, and am **known** by My own. ¹⁵As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; ⁱand I lay down My life for the sheep. ¹⁶And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock *and* one shepherd.

ⁱ Matt. 27:50; Mark 15:37; Luke 23:46; [John 15:13; 19:30]; 1 John 3:16

- 1. How do you define the role of a real down to earth Shepherd of Sheep?**

- 2. In the Bible, the Shepherd of the Sheep is paralleled to the work of leading Disciples. In our text, Jesus is “The Good Shepherd”, our example of excellence. What are 3-5 key roles that the “Good Shepherd” plays in the life of the Sheep/Disciples?**
 - i.**
 - ii.**
 - iii.**
 - iv.**
 - v.**

- 3. As Christ followers we are to become DISCIPLE MAKERS or “under-shepherds.” What are the key responsibilities that a shepherd of one of the Lord’s flocks within a local church should be concerned about in being like the “Good Shepherd”?**

a. Large Group Review of Small Group Breakout:

b. Shepherding & Flock Dynamics:

- a. **Preaching** takes place in the larger community at the **Ranch** Level for us this is the Local Church. *(There is a catalyst that occurs in the corporate worship experience. It is in this experience that the Holy Spirit anoints and inhabits the preaching moment for its maximum impact.)*
- b. **Teaching** takes place at the **Herd** level and for us this is within the Local Church. *(There is another experience of corporate learning that takes place in the dynamic experience of a teaching moment to groups of hungry disciples.)*
- c. **Shepherding/Pastoring** is the discipleship that takes place at the **Flock** level within the Local Church. *(The very heartbeat of the church comes in the small group. It is in the flock where people come together, they are called, they are known & know, and support one-another through the Share-Connect-Ministry-Disciple phases of their walk with God.)*

c. The Key Responsibilities of the Shepherd:

- a. **Calling-** This is the initiation and inviting role.
- b. **Gathering-** This is the effective hosting role which includes such things as i.e. Planning, Communicating Hosting, Accountability and Follow-up.

- c. **Caring-** This is the tending and mending role of the shepherd which includes supporting the sheep in times of Crisis, Sickness, Happiness, and Transition. This responsibility calls for discernment, assessment, and referral skills.
- d. **Teaching-** This is the Rabbinic role of helping to open the scriptures, doctrines, heritage, and teachings of the Christian Way to the flock.
- e. **Sending-** This is the Commission of the Church to prepare the flock to go forth and multiply through their witness and by inviting others to begin the discipleship journey. *(Shepherds don't have Sheep, Sheep have other Sheep, but Shepherds help them to be fat, healthy, and productive sheep.)*
- f. **Praying-** This is the work done by a "Good" Shepherd on their knees to cover their flock and to intercede for them as they live out their faith daily.

d. The Dynamics of a Healthy Shepherding System is like that of a Healthy Water System. In the water world there are.

- a. **Cisterns:** Man-made and Land-made areas that can hold water reserves. Healthy Cisterns require use and fresh supply. While unhealthy and cracked cisterns are stagnant and can contaminate and even worse destroy life.

- b. **Dying Seas:** Some sources of water are literally Dead or Dying Seas. In this case the water input is dramatically below demand. In some cases, there is no demand, just shrinkage. And some of these seas are in areas where the climate exacerbates the matter and is actually increasing the water loss. As a result, water quality is increasingly changing; concentration levels are even becoming lethal and even toxic.
- c. **Living Water:** Is a healthy water supply that has water coming in and water going out. If no water continuously comes in, then the lake dries up. If a lake has water coming in but no water going out, then the lake floods and kills everything around it. But a healthy living water source has balance.

e. The Words of the Prophet Jeremiah should guide us:

Jeremiah 2:13 nlt

For my people have done two evil things: They have forsaken me—the fountain of living water. And they have dug for themselves cracked cisterns that can hold no water at all!

If we step back from the source? The Church will have no fresh-living water coming in, and in due season we will begin to dry up. Sometime in a survivalist mentality churches will attempt to hoard and ration the remaining water, not offering it for ministry but holding it in tanks for their own use to survive a little longer. But look what happens, the reserved water becomes stagnant like the water in an old

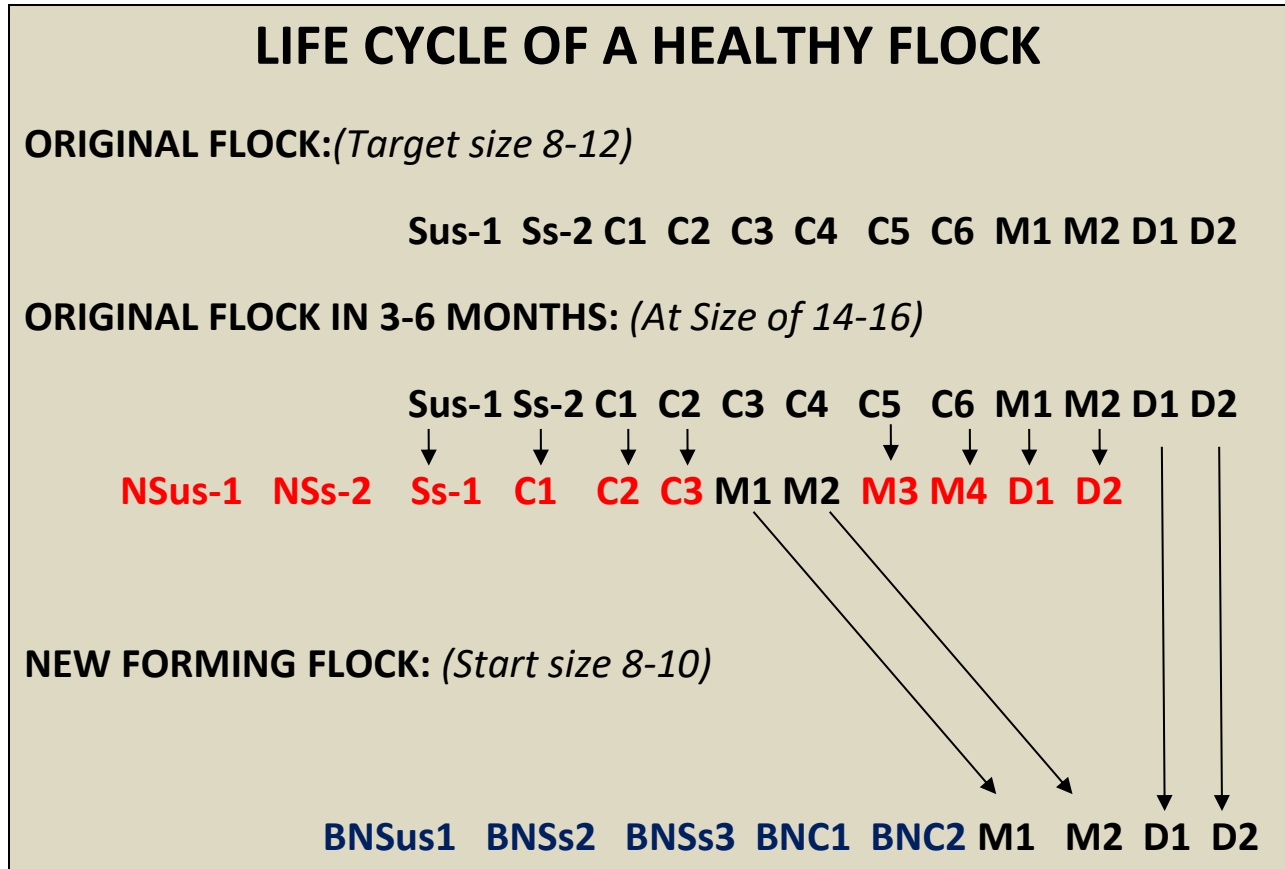
fish tank, and it becomes lethally deadly in due season! Why because the Church of Jesus Christ was designed not to function as a Cistern but as the source of “Living Water” that the World might know JESUS.

Which source would you choose to drink from?

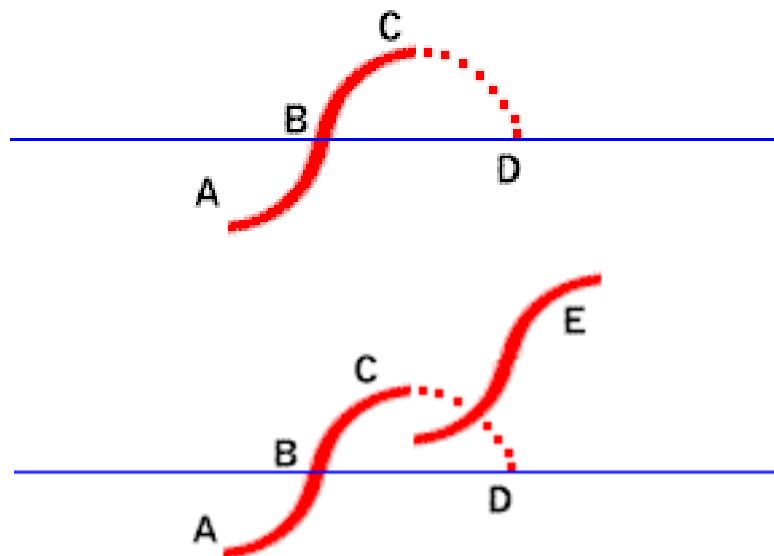


- f. Group Conversation describing what a Cistern, Dead Sea and Living Water Church might look like!**
- g. The Healthy and Normal Life Cycle of a Flock.** Again, if the Flock is healthy, there will be a healthy Herd. And Healthy herds make for a Ranch that is productive and flourishing.

Let's Look at the Life Cycle of a Healthy Flock.



h. **Dynamic Death and Dynamic Growth illustrated by the Bell Curve and the S-Curve Solution:** *(The law of diminishing returns verses the law of momentum.)*



i. **Pastor Troy's Haircut Metaphor:**

I get a haircut every 4-5 weeks or so, but it seems that I get only about 2-3 great hair days in the cycle then yuck! I find it is the same for the growth of Small Groups. We think we are close and we don't want to change, because everything is perfect, so we don't change to protect it, but in reality we doom it!

Pastor Troy's Solution to Great Hair: *"If you want to have twice as many great hair days cut your hair on a S-Curve and not on the Bell-Curve timeline."*

j. **In Summary the same is true for Shepherding Sheep and Growing Churches:**

A Healthy Flock has new sheep, adolescent sheep, and mature sheep under all under the leadership of under-Shepherds. As a result, new flocks are birthed forth. And a Health and Productive system means the Ranch is growing. (Ranching on the S-Curve)

If we fail to grow and produce healthy flocks than they become stagnant and aging leading to decline and death. (Ranching on the Bell-Curve)

k. **Closing Prayer**

NEXT WEEK

PART 1 ADVANCE- Variances & Code: *"Spiritual Gifts & The Spiritual Health of the Leader."*