


What the shepherds had done to the people (v. 1-9)	What God said He would do to the shepherds (v. 10)	How God said He would shepherd His people (v. 11-31)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● take care of themselves rather than the flock ● not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured ● not brought back the strays or searched for the lost ● ruled them harshly and brutally ● caused them to be scattered ● left them as food for wild animals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● will hold them accountable for the flock ● will remove them from tending the flock ● will rescue the flock from their mouths so it will no longer be food for them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● will search for His sheep ● will look after them ● will rescue them from the places where they were scattered ● will bring them out of the nations and gather them into their own land ● will pasture them and tend them and have them lie down ● will search for the lost and bring back the strays ● will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but destroy the sleek and strong ● will shepherd the flock with justice ● will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep ● will save His flock ● will place over them one shepherd, His servant David ● will make a covenant of peace with them ● will bless them ● will provide for them

 **Faith at Home**
 Families also need strong spiritual leaders. Think about your leadership of your family. Are there some things you could do differently in order to lead more effectively?

Teacher's Toolbox

*Getting your class into God's Word
and God's Word into your class*


ExcitingBibleStudy.com **Bible Series**

Ezekiel 33-35
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HOW TO USE TEACHER'S TOOLBOX: Make a four-page folded teacher's leaflet from the first two sheets by printing two-sided (or by putting the blank sides together). The other two sheets are for duplicating, displaying, distributing, or otherwise using as called for in the lesson plan.

 **Faith at Home** – A specific application of today's Bible passage to family life, to be used for individual reflection, family discussion, or class activity.

Getting Started

Brainstorming

- Display Item 2 and read it aloud: **What makes a good leader?** As members respond, have someone write their ideas on the chalkboard.
- **In today's study we will see some qualities of ineffective leadership, some ways not to lead.**

Exploring God's Word

Setting the stage

- Have someone read aloud Ezekiel 34:1-2.
- **The shepherds were the leaders of Israel. They had responsibility to take care of the people. But the Lord said through the**

prophet Ezekiel that they had failed as shepherds because they took care of themselves instead of their sheep.

Charting a passage

- Give each person a copy of the chart on page 4, but without the

information filled in (duplicate Item 1).

- Have members work together to study the focal passage and complete the chart.
- After 10-15 minutes, lead the class to share their findings.

Studying a related passage

- Direct learners' attention once again to Ezekiel 34, the passage about the shepherds.
- Have members form groups of three to five persons.
- Have someone read aloud Ezekiel 34:23-24.
- **These verses prophecy the coming of the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ.**
- Tell each group to read what Jesus said about being a good shepherd in John 10:1-18. After reading the passage, ask groups to discuss the relationship of Jesus' statements to Ezekiel's prophecy.
- Allow 10-12 minutes for groups to read the passage and discuss it.
- Then lead groups to pool their ideas.

Making It Personal

Discovering principles

- Ask members to call out principles of effective leadership inferred from the passage. Have someone write them on the chalkboard as they are called out. Here are some they may mention:

- Effective leaders put others ahead of themselves.
- Effective leaders meet the needs of those they lead.
- Effective leaders find ways to help those who are hurting.
- Effective leaders stay in touch with their followers and work at keeping them in the group.

Diagraming a passage

● **Now let's back up and look at chapter 33.**

- Have someone read aloud Ezekiel 33:1-6.
- **We're going to diagram this passage, draw a word picture of it.**
- Erase the chalkboard. Draw a large circle on the chalkboard. Inside the circle, print the word, "PEOPLE."
- **This circle represents the "people of the land" mentioned in the passage. For what special role have those people selected one person?** (watchman)
- Place a "W" somewhere on the edge of the circle to represent the watchman.
- **What does the watchman have?** (a trumpet)
- Draw a simple trumpet connected to the "W."
- **What term does the passage use as shorthand for an enemy attack?** (the sword)
- Draw a sword somewhere outside the circle.

- **What is the watchman supposed to do with the trumpet?** (blow it when he sees "the sword" coming)
- **What are the people supposed to do when they hear the trumpet?** ("take warning," which means to ready for battle against the sword, both offensively and defensively)
- **If the people are killed because they heard the trumpet but didn't take warning, whose fault is it?** (the people's)
- **If the people are killed because the watchman did not blow the trumpet, whose fault is it?** (the watchman's)

Understanding a metaphor

- **Ezekiel 33:1-6 describes a situation related to military security, but God is using it as a metaphor to describe Ezekiel's responsibility for the spiritual well-being of the people.**

Wrapping It Up

- **The role of a leader, particularly a spiritual leader, is vital to the well-being of a group of people. Let's spend some time right now praying for the leaders of our church.**
- Assign various leaders to different volunteers who will lift them up in prayer: pastor, other staff members, deacons, etc. Then ask someone to begin the time of prayer.

- Have someone read aloud Ezekiel 33:7-9.
- **What was Ezekiel's "watchman" responsibility to Israel?** (to speak in an effort to persuade wicked people to turn from their wicked ways)
- **Notice that the final result for the wicked person was the same whether Ezekiel failed to warn or the person failed to heed the warning. The difference was in the placing of accountability for the fate of the wicked person.**

Identifying God's will

- Have someone read aloud Ezekiel 33:10-11.
- **We know that God judges the wicked. But what, according to this passage, is God's will concerning someone who is wicked?** (not that they die, but rather that they turn from their ways and live)
- Effective leaders do not take advantage of their followers.
- Effective leaders protect their followers from potential dangers.

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**WHAT
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