



Look Back

- Group Check in...discuss any big events in people's lives this past week!
- Last week we discussed God's leading...and our obedience. What steps did take this past week toward obedience in your life?
- Did you share any of this with someone this past week, share a Jesus story or have a conversation about Jesus with anyone? If so, how did it go? If not, why?

Look Up

In the Old Testament, there are many names used by the Hebrew people for God. Many of them are strong and almost military type names like "Fortress" and "Rock" and "my Shield" or "my Stronghold" (see Ps. 18). In the Middle East, during ancient times, these names brought daily security in a present and active God. They still do today! However, there are three names or roles used to describe God's relationship with His people that are contrary to the military type times; and one of the main one's is Shepherd! As a matter of fact, the title SHEPHERD is used for three distinct entities in the Old Testament. These are: God, leaders, and the coming Messiah! Think about that!

Everyone is a leader. John Maxwell defines leadership simply as influence! If you influence anyone, you are a leader.

The question then would beg to be asked, "What are you leading people to?" In our passage today, these are the subjects God is speaking about through Jeremiah.

Read Jeremiah 23:1-8 (if willing and time permitting, read all of chapter 23)

- What do you learn about God?
- What do you learn about people and yourself?
- What do you find difficult or challenging?

Look Forward

- When have you been the recipient of true leadership / shepherding? What was God's role in it...and what was "man's" role in it?
- Who would you see as your leaders/shepherds? Who do you lead/shepherd?
- What things can you implement this week in order to lead/shepherd those around you better?
- One key aspect of leadership is replacing yourself. This means you are constantly looking for people that you can teach or train to also lead/shepherd others. This is a core principle of discipleship. We want to be disciples who make disciples! Who has God placed in your life that you can invest time, energy and resources into for their growth and maturity? What steps can you take this week to move toward this?