

## UNDERSTANDING THE SHEPHERDING

### SHEPHERDING (DEVELOPING AND DEEPENING RELATIONSHIPS)

This is the function and calling responsible for maintaining and developing healthy community and enriching relationships. This involves commitment to nurture spiritual maturity, maintain communal health, defend the community against breakdown, and engender loving community among the redeemed family of God.

The shepherd- style hero includes those who defend the community, elders who shape and guide it, and humanisers who make it liveable for all.

### THEOLOGICAL ROOTS IN GOD

Shepherding - God's love, his desire for relationship and intimacy

The shepherding aspects of God are seen in the community in the Trinity, and those parts of his being that relate to being a comforter, intimate, knower, divine parent, and compassionate.

### JESUS THE SHEPHERD

Jesus worked to include the previously excluded people into the covenant community and in so doing created a new family, open to all who love him. Everything about him radiated concern for people and for the establishment of true human community and relationships. His healings and his miracles demonstrated God's grace, mercy, and concern. He is the perfect expression of the *Shepherd, the Lover of his people*.

#### Jesus is:

- The Good Shepherd (John 10:14-15)
- Giving himself up for us (John 10: 11,15)
- Calling us (John 10:16)
- Our owner, never abandoning us (John 10:14, 27)
- Guardian and our safety (John 10:28-29)

#### Jesus functioned as a shepherd:

- Showing compassion (Matthew 9:35-36).
- Feeding the hungry (Matthew 14:13-21, Matthew 15:32-39, also in Mark and Luke)
- Healing the sick (John 4:46-54, John 5:1-15, John 9:1-7, Luke 7:1-10)
- Empathising and advocating for the oppressed, hurt, abused, downtrodden, abandoned, alienated, and victimized (Luke 7). (Luke 14:12-14, Matthew 5:1-12)

### THE SHEPHERDING IN THE CHURCH

The authentic SHEPHERDING church is a family of God's redeemed people that nurtures a faithful, reconciled healed community that witnesses to the Resurrection; reconciling the world to God through acceptance, support and healing. The desired social impact of the shepherding in the church is the creation of a reconciled community across race gender, age and nationality with love and acceptance at the heart; a communion with Christ.

#### Shepherding Functioning in the Early Church

In Acts 20:28, Paul refers to pastors, using the verb form of the word, which is translated "to feed" or "to care for". Pastors feed, tend, and protect the church. They are to do all the things that a shepherd would do for a



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flock. Similarly, in 1 Peter 5:1-2, Peter encourages these servants by saying, “Tend the flock of God.” It is evident that there were others operating in the shepherding gifting in the early church: Barnabas (Acts 15:36-41)

SHEPHERDING				
Theological Roots (Shepherding in the doctrine of God)	Archetypes and Heroes (Shepherding patterns laced in and throughout creation)	Reconstituted Shepherding (Redeemed and exemplified by Jesus)	Shepherding Functions (Given to and coded into the church)	Shepherding Callings (Individuals)
Community in Trinity Comforter Immanent (permanently pervading & sustaining the universe.) Divine Parent Compassionate	Caregiver Defender Peacemaker Helper Servant Healer	Good Shepherd Healer Reconciler Protector/Guardian of the community (lays down his life) The life Establishes true community God’s righteous one	Cultivate loving & caring community Protect members maintain relational glue Develop pathways for maturity/discipleship Create place of healing Shalom	Pastoral carers Spiritual directors Community reconcilers Relational glue Healers Counsellors First responders

SOURCE: Activating 5Q A Users' Guide, Alan Hirsch & Jessie Cruickshank

## THE SHEPHERDING AND THE INDIVIDUAL

In an individual, he or she has the unique ability to provide a comfortable space for people, a trusting relationship ripe for their personal and spiritual growth. They seek places to serve as a counsellor, discipler, care-giver or role model is concerned with the holiness of God and his relational covenant with his people.

The shepherding individual acts in an inclusive way and seeks to cultivate community wherever they find themselves, specifically a culture of family and belonging. They often are the ‘social glue’ at the centre of a wide network of people, often being the one person, a disparate group of people have in common. They are the people who develop the organisational EQ (emotional quotient), seeking to bring resolution and healing to disagreement (mediators). They will be the person integrating people into a socially cohesive community, fostering harmony and relational health.

SHEPHERDING				
Archetype	Hero-Expression in General Culture	Categories of Intelligence	Domains of Society	Universal Examples
Caregiver Defender Peacemaker Helper Servant Healer	Elders Lovers Guardians Loyalists Humanisers Parents First responders Cultivators Mediators Military Counsellors Health Workers Priests/Pastors Community workers Human resources Police	communal caring protective nurturing empathetic relational familial sociable event-oriented engaging personal affectionate	medicine family psychology community development defence law-enforcement	Nelson Mandela Colin Powell Mother Teresa Florence Nightingale Aung Sam Suu Kyi

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### What does this mean for the individual?

- You have great faith in what you believe, explain these beliefs to others
- People tend to confide in you and come to you for advice
- You can speak the truth in love
- You are a good listener and easy to talk to, and people find it easy to share with you.

### How the shepherding function might show up in the work place:

The shepherding individual is the one who builds relationships with the marginalised, the different and the non-performers in the workplace. They create space where the hurting can feel cared for, and where the quieted can be heard. They spend more time listening and relating than they do speaking and directing. They work with people across the organisation, and will have many contacts in lots of areas. They help people gain experience and grow in their role and skills. They are also the ones who work to ensure the appropriate protection of employees and customers. Most often found in the HR, and Customer Care teams, and sometimes, as the union rep.

The **SHEPHERDING** individual relies on the **APOSTOLIC** and the **EVANGELISTIC** to help them identify new territorial opportunities and recruits for the kingdom, and on the **PROPHETIC** to help them identify ways the Body can grow and mature.

### QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

- Do I mirror more of what Jesus says in John 10?
- Are the people of God caring for and showing compassion for people?
- To whom is God calling me to act as a shepherd?
- To whom am I making myself accountable?

### FURTHER READING

5Q: Reactivating the Original Intelligence and Capacity of the Body of Christ (Paperback): Alan Hirsch

The Pulse of Christ: Nathan Brewer

