

## SHEPHERDING

<p><b>Shepherding</b> involves nurture and guidance of others so that they grow in spiritual maturity and Christ-like character. Some, but not all, pastors have the spiritual gift of shepherding; many others in the church also have this gift. Jesus was the Good Shepherd—He loved, protected, cared for, and led His sheep into life abundant. People with the shepherding gift seek to do the same by walking alongside someone for a long or short season and directing them to Jesus and His offer of life, hope, and peace.</p>	<p>This is one of my gifts _____</p> <p>I am unsure if I have this gift _____</p> <p>This is not one of my gifts _____</p>
<p><b>Questions on the assessment that pertain to Shepherding:</b></p>	<p>Review each question and jot down what comes to mind:</p>
<p><i>I have been able to successfully guide others in their spiritual journeys.</i></p>	
<p><i>I enjoy coming alongside someone in one-on-one mentoring.</i></p>	
<p><i>I find satisfaction in long-term coaching relationships.</i></p>	
<p><b>Some words that describe people with this gift:</b></p>	<p>Put a checkmark below if you feel the word describes you:</p>
<p>Fosters health</p>	
<p>Guide</p>	
<p>Counselor</p>	
<p>Model</p>	
<p>Trustworthy</p>	
<p>Supportive</p>	
<p><b>Potential negatives to this gift:</b></p>	<p>Check the ones that feel like particular warnings for your use of the gift:</p>
<p>Might begin to think/hope that followers are dependent on him/her instead of giving glory to God for the gift of Shepherding.</p>	
<p>May have a tendency to rely on own human wisdom instead of asking God for guidance.</p>	
<p>May have a difficult time ending a shepherding relationship when it is time for closure.</p>	



Some possible ways to serve using this gift:	Check which ways to serve sound like a potential fit for you, or add to the list:
• Counseling ministry/mentor/coach	
• Deacon/elder/pastor	
• Bible study/small group leader/assistant	
• Sunday School/Adult Education teacher	
• Hospital visitation	
• Singles/Women's/Men's ministry	
• Youth leader	
• Stephen Minister	
• Life coach	
• Manager/supervisor	

### Quotations from individuals with this gift:

DM: "Over the years, I have enjoyed the guidance, instruction, nurturing and fellowship of others who have shepherded me. God placed these special people in my life to be my role models. Today, I am counted as a shepherd in God's kingdom, and it is humbling indeed. None of my success in keeping watch over the 3rd graders in Sunday school comes from me alone. It is by His equipping that I take responsibility for the teaching of His word and the nurturing of these children."

RD: "I don't see myself as a shepherd of a large class of people or even a small group. But I do believe that God asks me to care for and guide those he has put in my path. I have been blessed with church positions that put me in contact with young interns, volunteer leaders and also those who are somewhat compromised (mentally or financially). The Lord has given me compassion for these people and I enjoy pointing them to Jesus. I enjoy loving others and helping them to see what the Bible says about their situation, and helping them to live fully in their new life in Jesus! I enjoy challenging people to deepen their relationship with Jesus through prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit. I try to speak love to those whom the Lord has brought me."

KB: "I see this gift used in my life through relationships with family, friends, and through discipleship. Many come to me seeking advice and help with decision-making, faith questions, and a desire to know Christ more."

If you think you have this gift, write your own quotation (a description of what this looks like in your life):

Having reviewed this gift in detail above, who else do you think exhibits this gift?

jot down your reactions/reflections here: