*Edit this page to fit your ministry setting. Then remove this note.*

**HOW TO HELP SHEPHERDS**

**EXPERIENCE SUCCESS**

1. **Pray together.**

The level of your spiritual maturity and priorities set the pace for the entire team. As you pray with your shepherds, it encourages them to pray with their children. It helps the entire ministry see the importance of depending on God to be the one to do a mighty work and not depending merely on our abilities to put together a nice program.

1. **Set high expectations.**

From time to time, talk about the expectations as signed in the Ministry Covenant (See *Ministry Covenant)*. These expectations include attending training events, praying, reading your Bible, preparing the lessons in advance, and being on time for teaching. As you publicly speak to your shepherds, set the bar high. Expect much. This is an important ministry. God expects our best.

1. **Encourage their preparation.**

Ask shepherds how many are reading their *Shepherds Paths* in preparation for the week’s lesson. Read it yourself and allude to it from time to time. Insist that shepherds read their material beforehand and be prepared. If you see some who are not prepared, ask them after the session how you can help them better experience success.

1. **Remind the shepherds to focus on the kids and their needs.**

The difference of their role and that of a traditional Sunday school leader is that the main objective is not only to *teach* the lesson, but also to help the children *apply* the lesson.

1. **Encourage your shepherds to be relational and even have fun with their kids.**

Encourage them to take an interest in the children’s lives, their challenges and victories. Ask the shepherds if they would like to share any special experiences of how they have seen God work in the lives of their kids. These conversations can be shared publicly, energizing the entire team.

1. **Talk about success stories often.**

Determine what a picture of success looks like. Is it a child coming to meet Christ as his/her Savior? Is a troubled child finding a place where they can connect with God? Is a willing learner grasping deep truths from the Bible? Weekly, talk to your shepherds about their successes and share those success stories publicly. This helps everyone strive toward the bar of success.

1. **Help them through difficulties.**

Create time to ask shepherds what difficulties they may be experiencing in their shepherding. Do whatever you can to help them or find someone who can. They need to know that you are behind them.

1. **Ask the shepherds to ask other adults to join the team.**

One of the greatest marks of success for shepherds is when they bring another adult into the children’s ministry. Encourage them to invite others to share the excitement of what God is doing.