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

**HOW TO ENCOURAGE SHEPHERDS**

1. **Ask them how you can pray for them.**

Keep a running prayer journal for the prayer needs of your shepherds. As you pray for them, check back with them to see how God has answered those prayers.

1. **Thank them for serving each week.**

A simple verbal “Thank you for your ministry,” can mean a great deal to a shepherd, especially if this is said often and regularly. Give God’s message, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

1. **Show them how they make a difference.**

Gather stories and illustrations from kids and families. Share them with your group of shepherds regularly so they can see how their ministry is affecting others. Ask them to share these stories in your group time so everyone can see how, as a team, they are all making a difference.

1. **Show interest in their ministry.**

During casual conversation, ask questions of their ministry and of their lives. As you show interest in them, they will feel cared for and connected to the ministry. You will discover other ways to encourage them as you listen.

1. **Give encouragement gifts.**

An occasional encouragement gift can be as simple as buying donuts for the team or attaching an encouragement note to a candy bar.

1. **Give encouragement emails.**

Put your shepherds on a group email list. Send out encouragement notes, newsletters and any support information they might need.

1. **Keep them equipped for their ministry.**

Giving the right tools and supplies are signs of support and encouragement. Do what you can so that their space is comfortable and conducive for learning and connecting with kids. Work with the supply coordinator to make sure all the materials are ready each week.

1. **Gather the group for a meal.**

One of the greatest encouragement events can be having a team over to your home for dessert or a meal. This helps the team connect socially and places a great value on the ministry partnership you have.