

TIPS FOR SHEPHERDING SUCCESS

1. Be committed

Your students will only be as committed as you are. If students realize you take this seriously, then they will to. Set aside small group meetings as non-negotiable times. We only have a few hours a week with our students. Do your best to be consistent with weekly meeting times.

2. Be a Barnabas

Be a constant source of encouragement to the students you are shepherding. Phone calls, writing notes, emails, and everything in between. Students need to hear from you! They love mail and talking on the phone. Use any excuse you can to affirm them. Also keep attendance and follow up on absences.

3. Be creative

The curriculum is a great tool to help your students grow, but put your flavor on your group. Share experiences and life lessons in new, fresh, and creative ways.

4. Be a model

Students care more about who you are than what you say. Be sure that you are modeling a life that they should follow.

5. Be excited to meet parents

A few words of greeting will earn a parent's confidence and show that you know how to interact with him or her too.

6. Be yourself

Don't try to look like a student, be secure in who you are. Besides, they have plenty of "student" friendships—what they need is an adult relationship with you.

7. Be fun

You set the pace for your group. Enthusiasm is contagious! Fire your group up for an awesome year.