



Practical Ways to Pastor/Shepherd Your House Church Members

1. Pray for and with your people. Send personal texts asking what you can be praying about for them. Pray. Then check back in with them about that request next time you see them or through a text message. You can say a prayer for them through a voicemail or send a recorded prayer you prayed for them specifically.

2. Share the pastoring with people in your house church. Recognize that pastoring is a spiritual gift (Eph. 4). There may be others in your house church who have this gift. Lean on those people. Rather than you doing all the pastoring, involve other members in the caring and praying and meeting needs. Connect them with people in your house church to pray over, serve, etc. Give ministry away to those in your house church. You should not be doing all the shepherding. Your role is to equip the people to do the work of the ministry. But, be patient. It can take time for people who are used to just coming and sitting to begin to understand their role to participate and begin to live it.

3. Teach, remind, and expect from your people to live what God's Word says about being the Church. The tendency will be for people to just be spectators instead of participants in the shepherding. We must show and remind them from God's Word that loving one another is not relegated to just the pastor or leader. It's for everyone. What must show God's Word and the example of the first century church what being the church is and looks like. Help your people see Jesus expects all disciples to be engaged in each other's lives and caring for each other. Don't assume your people know how to do this or what it looks like. Give ways for your people to live this (encourage members to have one another over for meals, organize monthly meal nights, meet for coffee, pray with each other, take a meal to someone, etc). When they do, affirm and celebrate this!

4. Use Group Chat apps. WhatsApp or GroupMe chats can be super helpful for conversations with house church members. This can include sharing prayer requests, needs, fun things, just like you would with your own family.

5. Hospitality. Invite members of your house church over for a meal, or game night, or just to watch a movie, sports event, or cookout. These natural opportunities often bring about conversations about life helping you know what physical, emotional, financial, and spiritual needs there might be.

6. Model what you expect. Often the level of honesty and vulnerability your house church will reach is to the level you as the leader and pastor are willing to share. If we desire our people to be vulnerable with their struggles and needs, we also must be willing to be vulnerable with our own struggles and needs. This means the pastor or leader must be open and willing to be shepherded and receive shepherding from our own people.

***The above lessons come from the February 2025 [The Living Room Zoom](#) conversation.*