

Shepherd/Pastor	<p>This study assumes you have listened to the sermon preached by the amazing and smart Liz Langham, Musical, Community minded, Generous, Academically brilliant and much more. The sermon was on Sunday 14th March 2021 at St Christopher’s Anglican Church, in Tawa. You can find the sermon via www.tac.org.nz Click on either the 8am or 10am button to see the service. If you just want the sermon, scroll along until you see this epic and brilliant woman preaching while everyone is listening with full attention.</p>
Logging in icebreaker	<p>Share a time you have been cared for well, or not cared for well. Have you ever been part of a group or community that you think took care of each other really well? What was it like and why do you think it worked?</p>
Readings	<p>Psalm 23 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.</p> <p>John 10:11-18 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and</p>

	<p>runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”</p>
<p>Quotes from Hirsh, etc</p>	<p>People who score highest with a Pastoral position are Soul Healers* in the Kingdom of God. They are instrumental in guiding people through brokenness back to wholeness and healing their soul from wounds that keep them where they are. They create a safe atmosphere of family and belonging. They bring fun and enjoyment to God's ministry and allow people to feel like they are part of a greater family. -www.fivefoldministry.com</p> <p>Words to describe Shepherd/Pastor: Caregiver, Defender, Peacemaker, Helper, Servant, Selfless, Healer, Priests, Health workers, Lovers, Parents, Guardians, Elders, First responders, Counselors</p> <p>Characteristics of Shepherd/Pastor: Social, Communal, Empathetic, Relational, Familial, Sociable, Seek common good, Event-oriented, Engaging, Personal, Affectional, Protective</p> <p>Examples of Shepherd/Pastor: Nelson Mandela, Mother Teresa, Florence Nightingale, J.R.R. Tolkien, J. Edgar Hoover</p> <p>Allan Hirsh in his book, <i>5Q: Reactivating the Original Intelligence and Capacity of the Body of Christ</i> writes that the shepherding mark of a church is “the family of God’s redeemed people that nurtures a faithful, reconciled community that witnesses to the Resurrection through its common</p>

	<p>life. The church witnesses to the new way of being human in Jesus Christ. When a community represents God's chosen, reconciled and reconciling, healed and healing family in the world, then it is authentically church.</p>
<p>Questions to get discussion started on Sunday's sermon on Pastor/Shepherd?</p>	<p>What did you learn about Pastors/Shepherds that you didn't know before? What did you find most caught your attention in the sermon? Was there anything you disagreed with? Did the sermon make any connections for you about people who might lean towards pastor/shepherd?</p>
<p>Prayer from the Aotearoa/New Zealand Prayerbook, page 681</p>	<p>Good Shepherd, King of Love, Accept our thanks and praise For all the love and care we have received; And for your servants in our church. May our care for each other grow constantly More reverent and more discerning. Amen.</p>