

Known By Your Fruit:

Effective Christian Leadership

Romans 12

notes

Romans 12

A Living Sacrifice

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Humble Service in the Body of Christ

3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

4 For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,

5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith;

7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach;

8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Love in Action

9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

13 Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.

18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

20 On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with **good**.

Known By Your Fruit:



Effective Christian Leadership

Can we be an effective Christian leader if we approach leadership with this tone?

I am a true leader!

Wow, I am so honored to be a leader!

I made it! I'm a leader now and I run this company and what I say is this, and that, and what I say is done and what, what, what, me me me...

What if leadership was not a title, or what YOU are, but what if leadership was simply your fruit?

Jesus led people well because he never spoke of Himself as good, he spoke of God as good. His eyes were fixed on God, His Father, and we can be effective if we do the same.

Christian Leaders are not known for their titles, they are known by the people who desire to be united to them, and volunteer for to do tasks eagerly, and desire the same air space, or discipleship.

I wondered this, "Am I a good mom because I hold the title of mom?" *Oh, you are such a great mother, you had 2 kids.*

You got through the gestational period, your kids are still alive, and gold star!

Or is someone considered a good mom, or known as a great mom, because of WHO their children are...?

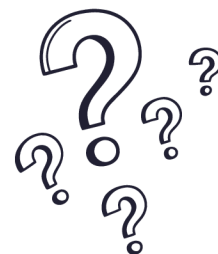
Let's consider another example...Are you a great speaker because of the stage you stand on, or the building that you stand inside or built? Or are you a great pastor because of the eloquent speeches you say or the clothing you wear?

Are you a great pastor because you consider the people who follow you, and you say, "Lord, you are good."?



Are you a good Pastor because you never elevate yourself or make yourself an untouchable? unapproachable?

Do you ever put yourself in a glass house where people cannot reach you - or are you available and a loving communicator?

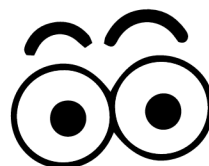


Are you a title? or a good leader?

Do you love and pour into others that are around you with no sense of ego whatsoever because you know and actively live in a way that God commanded you to: LOVE HIM and then.....LOVE OTHERS?

This naturally takes us to the next step of Effective Christian Leadership, if you can take the "me" out of leader and focus it on **who** has blessed you with people who must be guided by you then you can be exactly what God wants you to be, and who He can use effectively.

This kind of leadership is easy to spot.



Are you seeing and meeting the needs of those around you? Are you being a sheep or a goat?

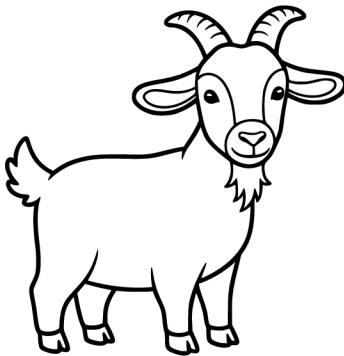
Are you looking at what they need from you, and NOT what you need from them?

The Parable of the Sheep and Goats (Matthew 25:31-46)

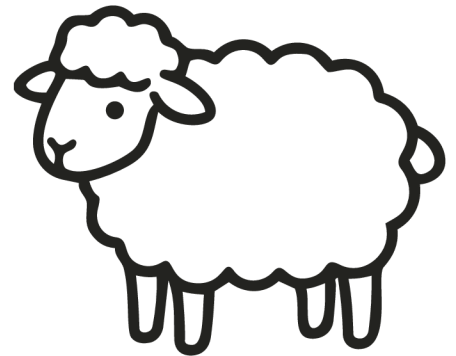
is a teaching by Jesus describing the final judgment, where he separates humanity into two groups based on their actions, rather than just words. "Sheep" (the righteous) are those who acted with compassion, feeding the hungry and caring for the vulnerable, thereby serving Jesus himself. "Goats" (the unrighteous) are those who neglected to help others, facing separation and judgment.

Core Aspects of the Parable:

- The Judgment Scenario: Jesus depicts himself as a King/Shepherd separating people into two groups: the righteous on his right and the cursed on his left.
- The Criteria (The "Least of These"): The deciding factor is how people treated vulnerable, needy individuals, identified as "the least of these brothers". Helping those in need is treated as serving Jesus directly.

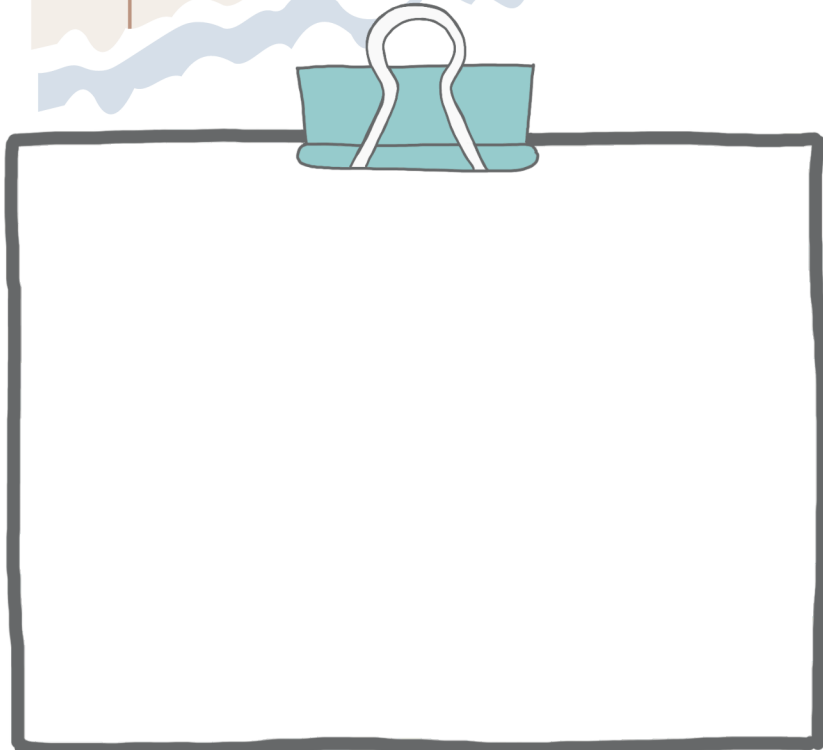
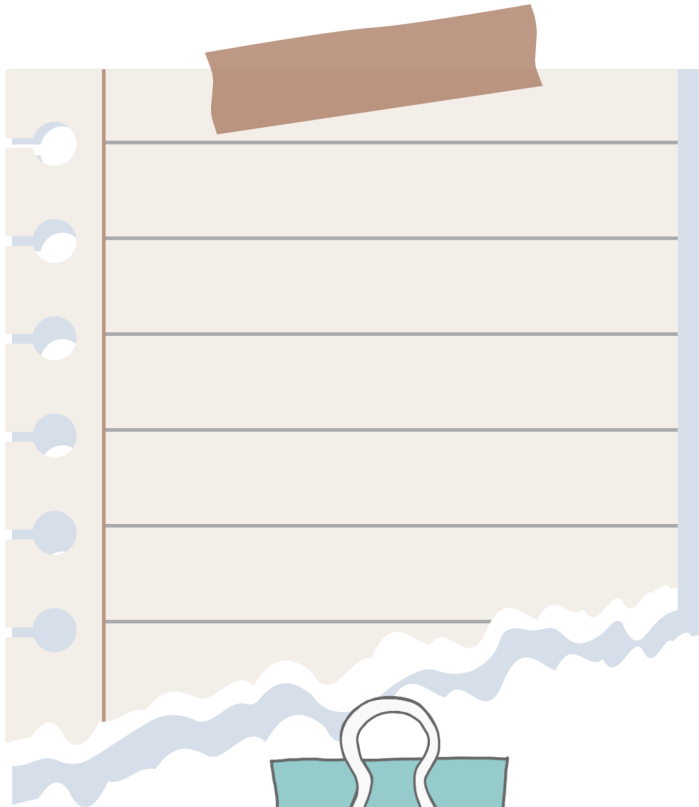
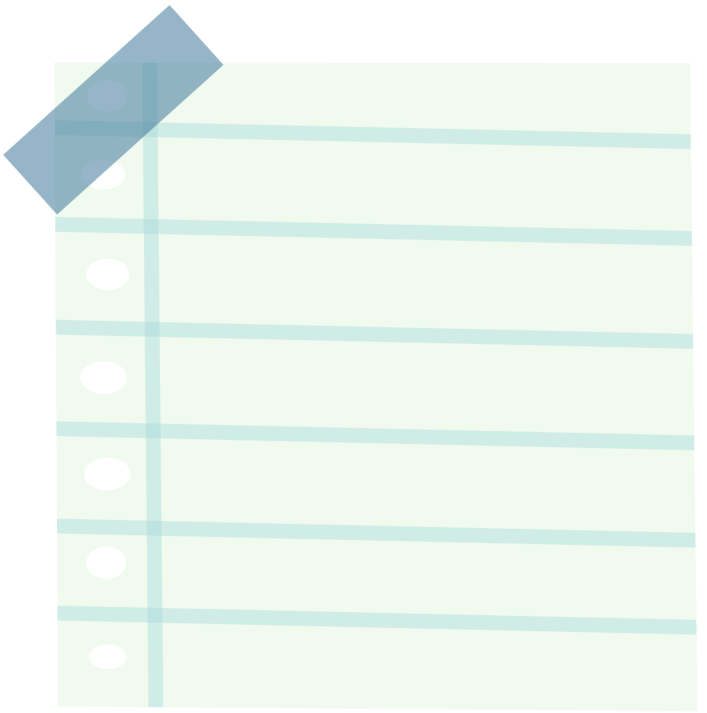


or



- The Outcomes:
 - Sheep (Right Side): Represent the righteous, saved individuals who inherit the kingdom because they showed compassion.
 - Goats (Left Side): Represent the unrighteous who did not serve others, leading to eternal punishment.
- Symbolism of Animals: Sheep are portrayed as reliant on the shepherd, representing followers, while goats are considered headstrong, independent, and stubborn, representing those who refuse to follow divine guidance.

NOTES



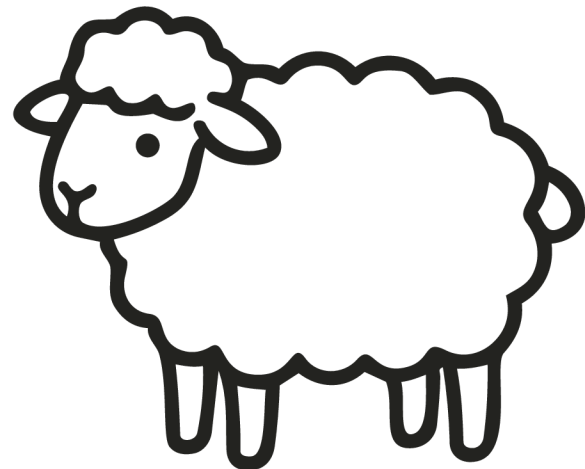
In Christianity, sheep symbolize believers who are defenseless, prone to wandering, and entirely dependent on Jesus (the Good Shepherd) for protection, guidance, and salvation.

Understanding sheep involves recognizing their need for leadership, their tendency to follow, their vulnerability to predators, and their ability to recognize their shepherd's voice.

Key characteristics of sheep important to Christians include:

- **Defenselessness & Vulnerability:** Sheep lack natural defenses (no sharp claws or speed) and cannot protect themselves, highlighting a believer's need for Christ's protection from spiritual dangers.
- **Tendency to Wander:** Sheep easily get lost and wander off. This mirrors humanity's tendency to go astray and disregard God's path, as noted in Isaiah 53:6.
- **Dependence on a Shepherd:** Unlike animals that can find their way home, sheep require a shepherd to guide them to pasture and water. This highlights the need for daily reliance on God's direction.
- **Following the Shepherd's Voice:** Sheep know their shepherd and follow him, but they can be led astray by following the crowd, emphasizing the importance of discerning Christ's voice over worldly influence.
- **Being "Cast Down":** A sheep that has rolled onto its back and cannot get up is "cast." It is helpless and will die without the shepherd, symbolizing that Christians cannot overcome struggles (like sin or anxiety) without Jesus.
- **Need for Cleansing:** Sheep require care to remove parasites and debris from their wool, representing the spiritual need for cleansing and sanctification.

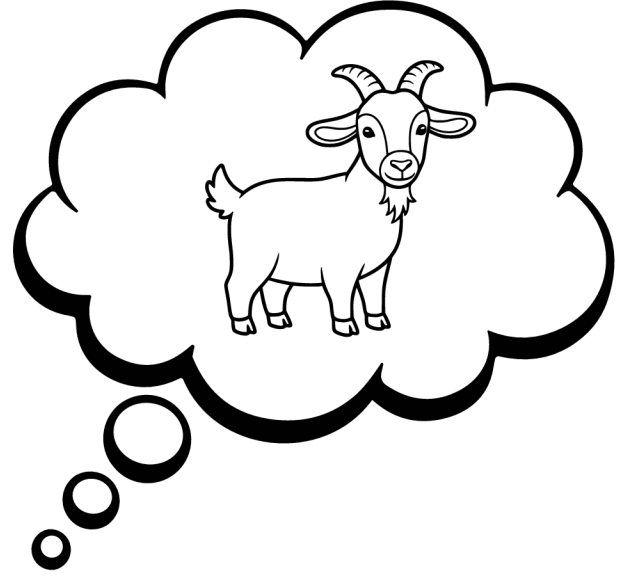
In essence, these traits emphasize the humility, trust, and obedience required of Christians to remain secure under the care of the Good Shepherd





John 6

Name: _____



Based on the Parable of the Sheep and Goats (Matthew 25), **goats** symbolize unbelievers or complacent Christians who are self-reliant, disobedient, and uncompassionate toward the needy.

Key traits to avoid include stubborn independence, pride, neglect of service to others, and a rebellious spirit that refuses to follow the Shepherd (Jesus).

Key Characteristics of the "Goat" to Understand & Avoid:

Independence and Rebellion: Unlike sheep that follow the flock and shepherd, goats are independent, headstrong, and prone to going their own way, representing a lack of submission to God's will.

Lack of Compassion (Selfishness): Goats are characterized by their failure to minister to the hungry, thirsty, strangers, or sick. Their focus is self-centered rather than sacrificial.

Stubbornness and Contrary Nature: They are often unpredictable and resistant to discipline or guidance.

Self-Righteousness and Hypocrisy: They may appear active but often act out of self-interest rather than true, sacrificial love, leading to surprise on the day of judgment.

Disunity: Goats often act alone and do not exhibit the strong flocking, unified instinct of sheep.

Haughtiness: They can exhibit a haughty, arrogant, or proud attitude.

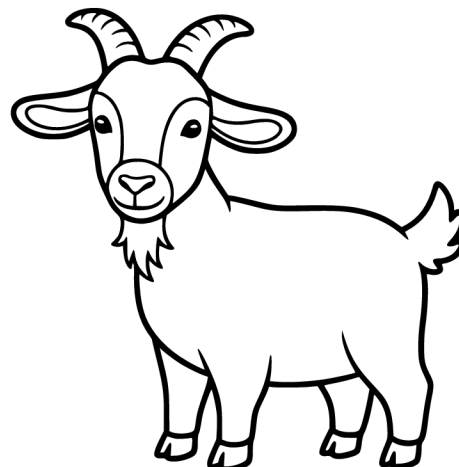
What to Avoid (The "Goat" Lifestyle):

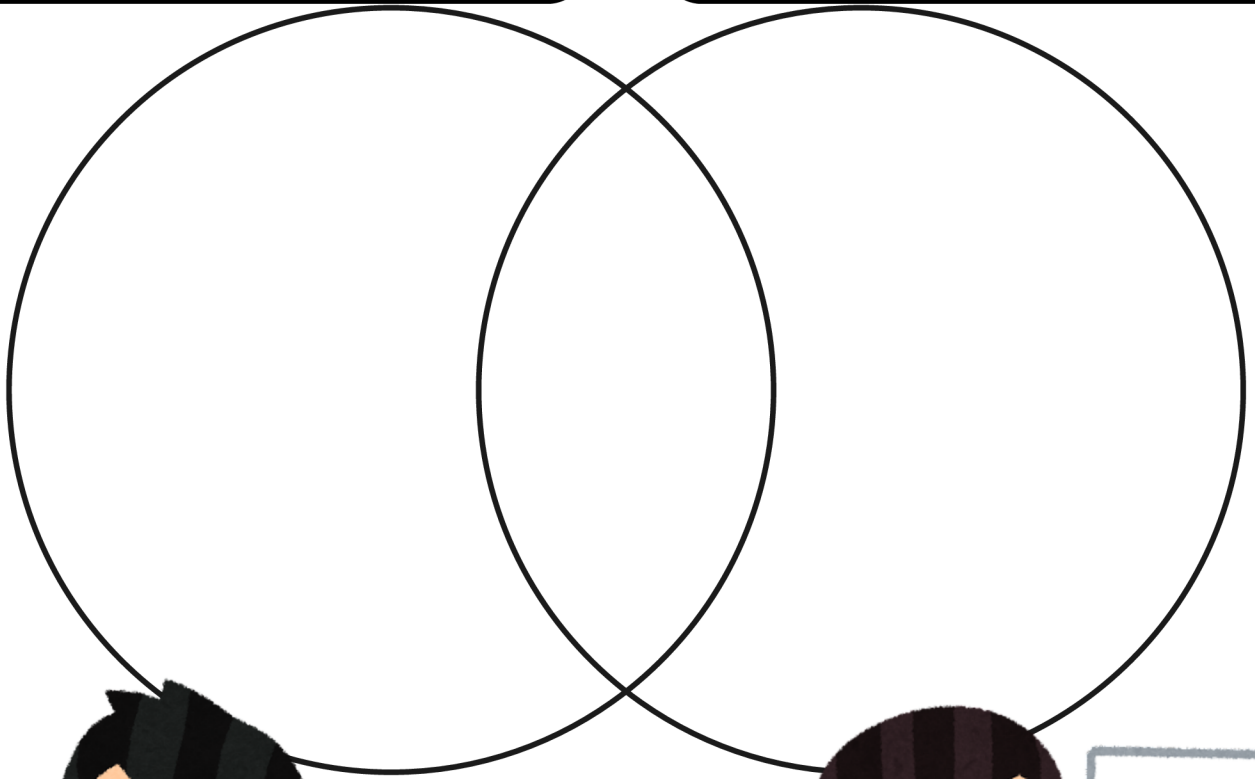
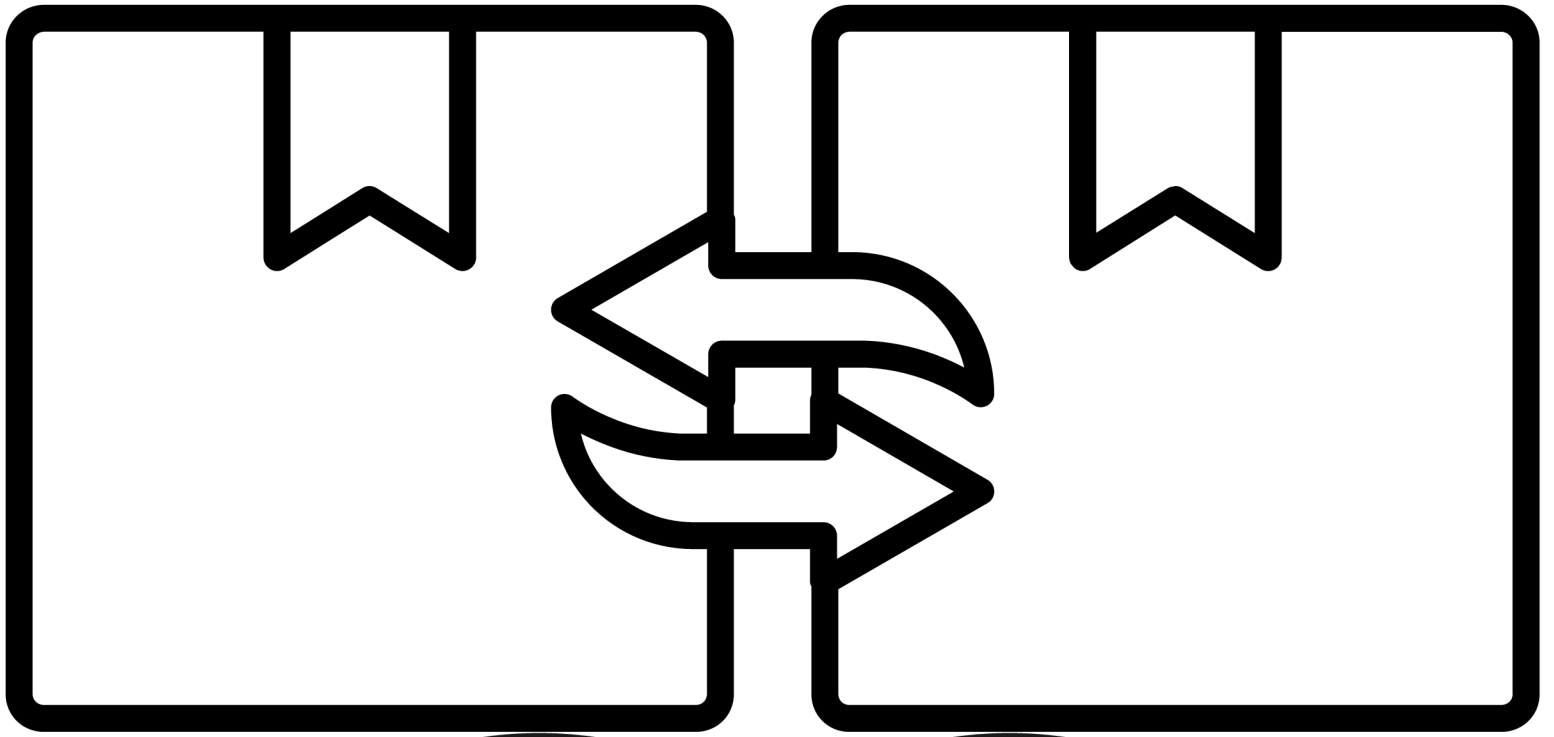
Avoiding Service: Failing to see Christ in the "least of these" and neglecting to show love and mercy.

Independent Living: Trying to live by one's own rules rather than following the voice of the Shepherd.

Being "Judas Goats": Following leaders or trends that lead others away from the faith and into destruction.

The Goal:
The difference lies
not just in outward action,
but in the heart and fruit—
true believers (sheep) exhibit
compassion and obedience,
whereas "goats" are marked
by their indifference to
Christ's teachings





Let's consider all circumstances - and be honest, could you lead if there was no one to follow? So what is a leader dependent on?

Let's think about this on a massive scale:

Would God be God without angels, humans, creation?

What is the definition of the God of the Bible?

'elohiym

el-o-heem'

Parts of Speech

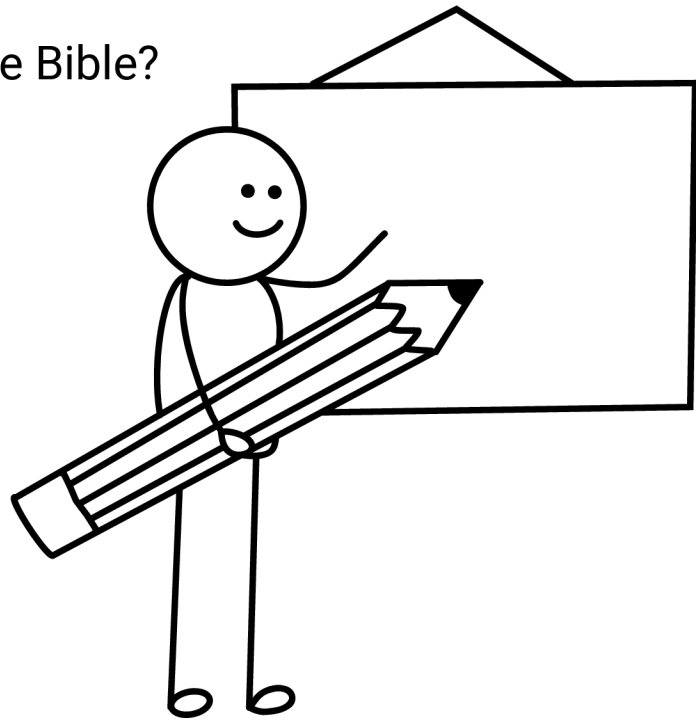
Noun Masculine

'elohiym Definition

Word Usage - Total: 2604

1. (plural)

a. rulers, judges



Yahweh (YHWH) is the personal covenant name of the God of Israel in the Hebrew Bible, most commonly interpreted as "He Is," "I Am Who I Am," or "**He Brings into Existence**". It signifies God's self-existence, faithfulness, and **eternal presence with His people**

God is God to us because we worship Him. But God is God because He is "I AM" He exists to us because we are created by him, for him.

Romans declares that we are aware of our Creator because He created us to KNOW Him. What do you know about God?

It is pretty simple, you can't lead anything if you have nothing to lead. So where is your value as a leader?

Your people must be your passion. A great leader thinks about people, *"How can I pour into you - see your skill set and set you apart to be more?"*

Because if your team is thriving, then who gets the credit?

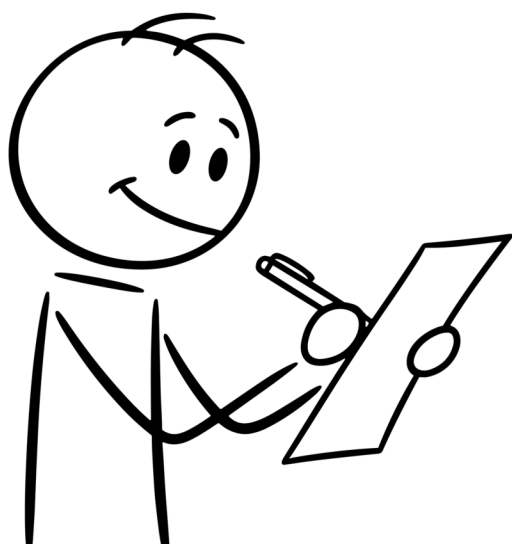
The effective, humble, and Biblical leader will always say - "GOD!" amen.

Hebrews 10:24-25

...let us spur one another on, in love and good deeds, knowing that we must do this all the more as we see the day approaching

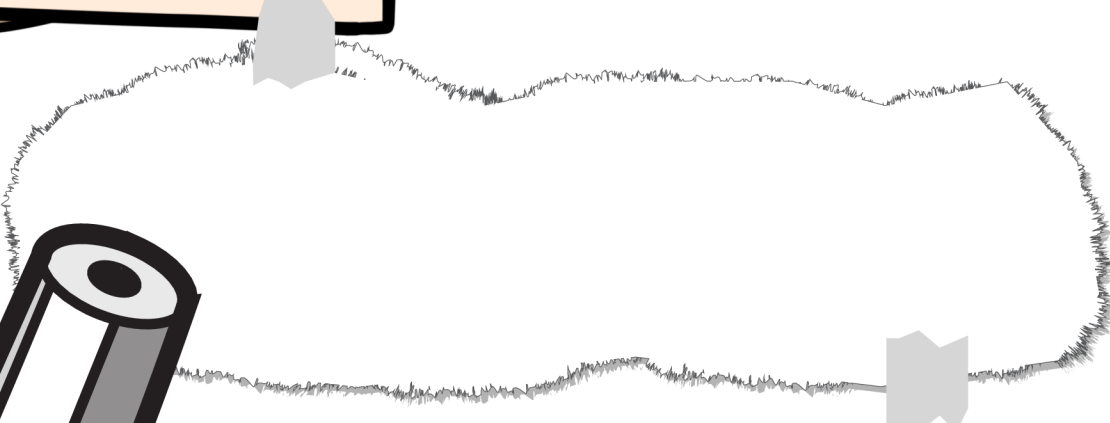
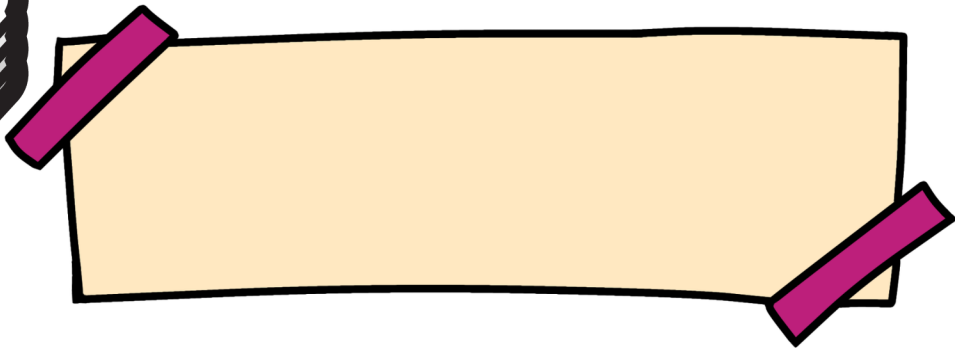
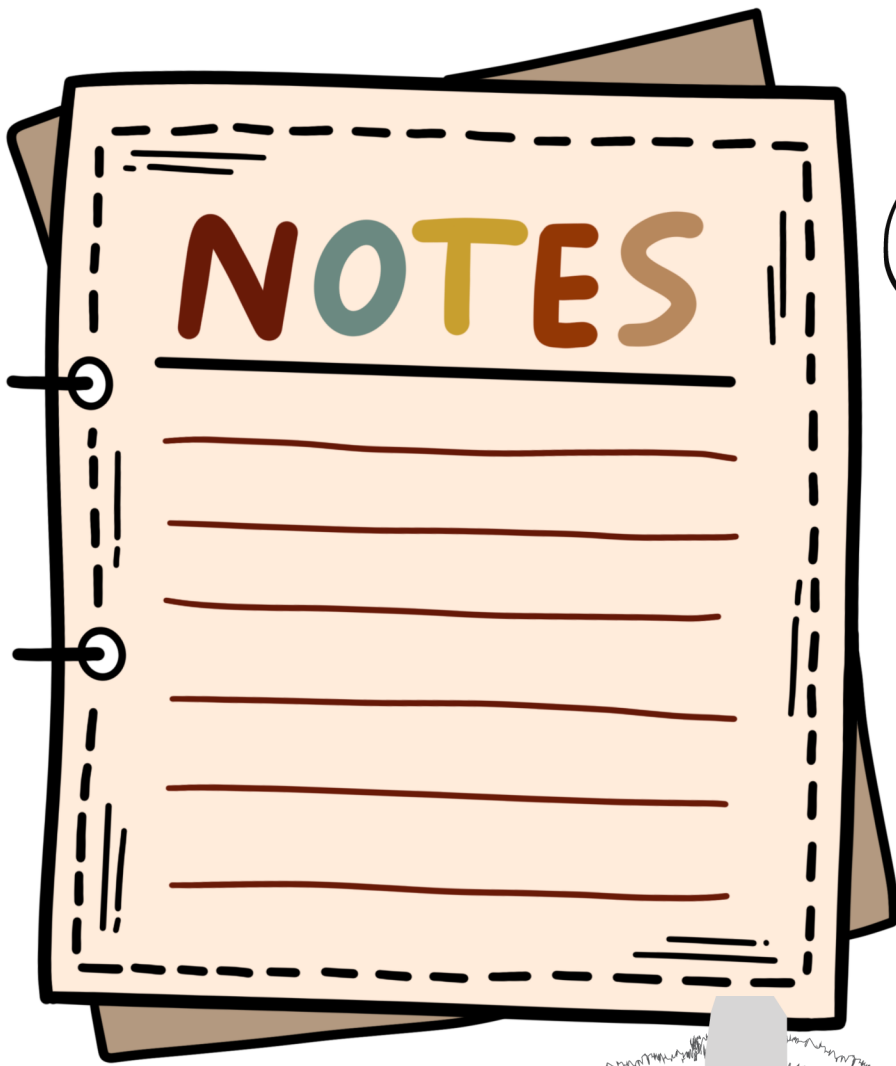
So feed the sheep, help the poor, lets effectively gather together knowing that all parts work together for good. Excited to be the hands 'n feet of Jesus, we are the body of Christ - not as "leaders", but as hands holding hands!

That we never let anyone drift or go astray and that we we see a need, we either meet it, or find the most effective person to do so!



Things to do!

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What a blessing to see the wisdom that inspired the founding fathers to write a Constitution that so effectively describes good leadership as it states, “we the people, for the people, by the people”.

Effective leadership is of the people, not of the elected officials...

Where can you find another country where the people speak volumes, not the leader? Is that something that is slowly sifting through our fingers, are we preserving this type of leadership for our children? May our eyes be open to all types of ministry and needs. God bless America.

That is why the world has it so wrong about faith - it's not what I have done, it is what He has done in me!

If my faith was about me, and the efforts, or of my choices, and my decisions, the faith I have would be in myself and my life would be rubbish, it would be worth NOTHING.

The value in me, is Christ alone, because He loved me first, and called me and I heard and answered my Shepherd's voice.

So effective leadership is not me, it is a reflection of the people who choose to be in my airspace and the fruit that is produced by our hands holding hands.

We are nothing but a beautiful barrel of monkeys...

An effective Christ-like leader is building, constantly building because God is doing the same thing:

They recognize the need to build up and to instruct, to move the hands that are on their left, into the spot that we occupy, while we look to the hands on our right for instruction and guidance, so there is never an empty space.

The effective leader knows that God is always building, therefore we will be encouraged to move and build as well, and we cannot move and leave an empty space behind us.

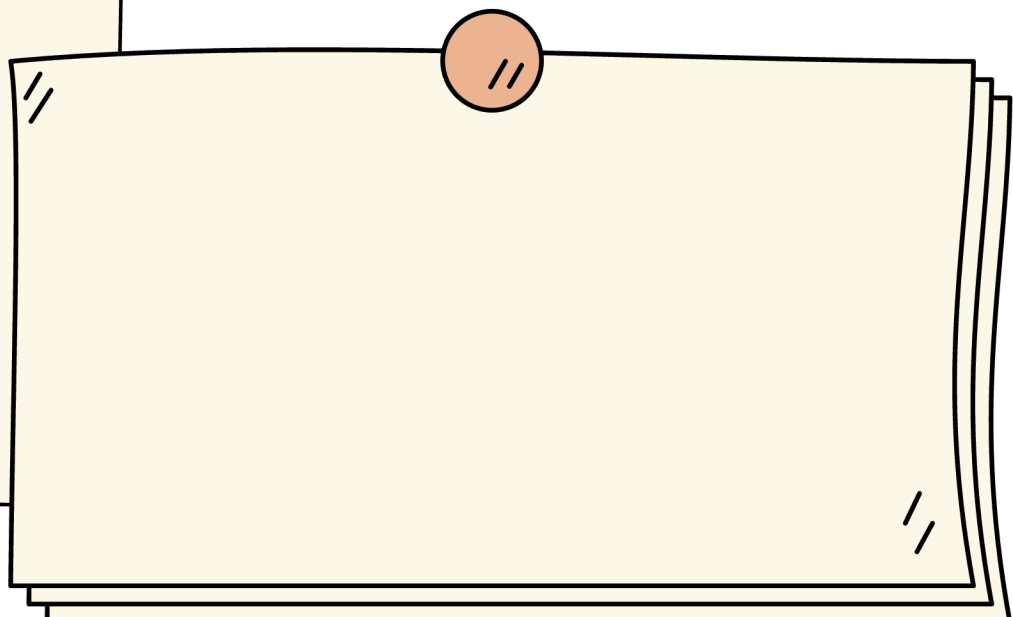
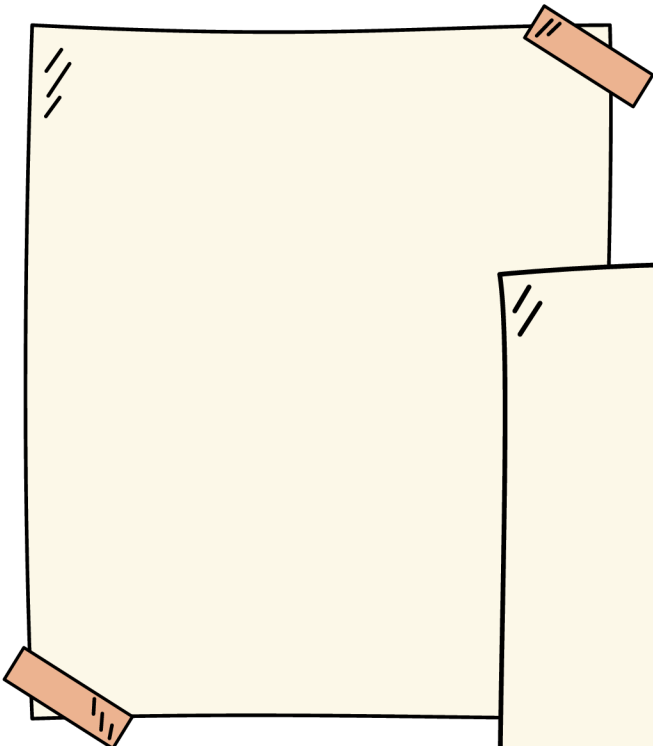
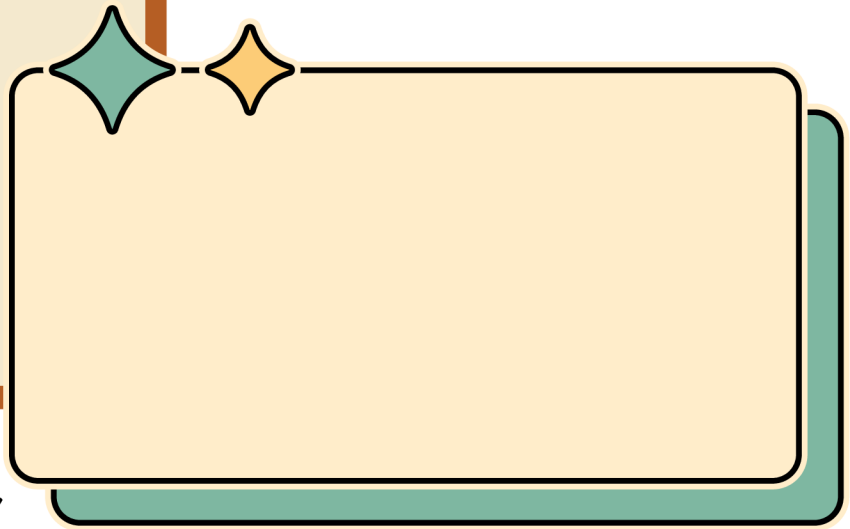
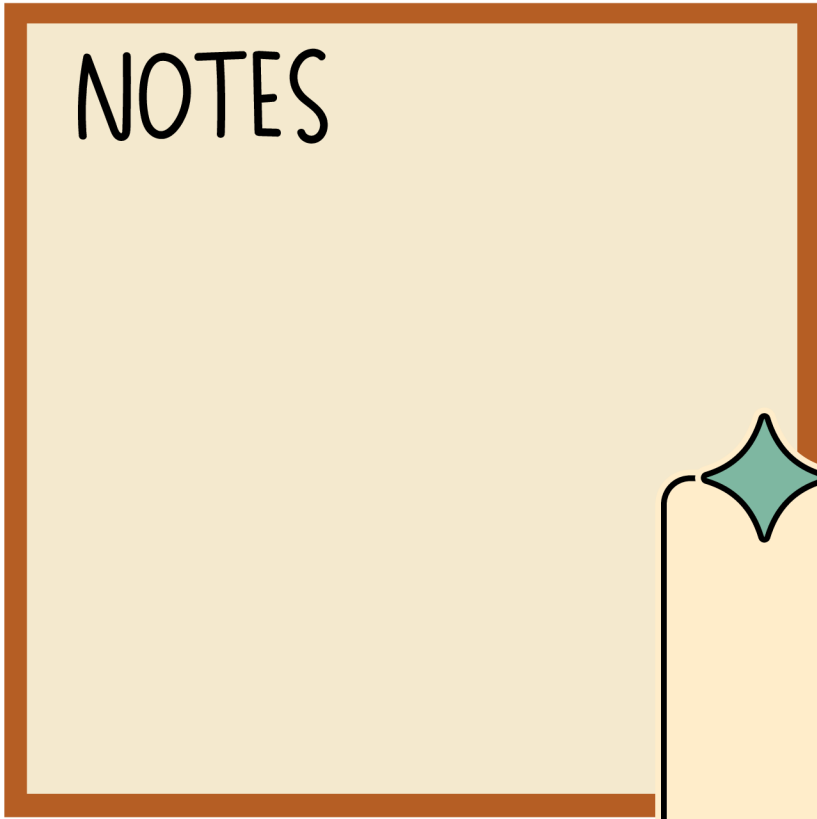
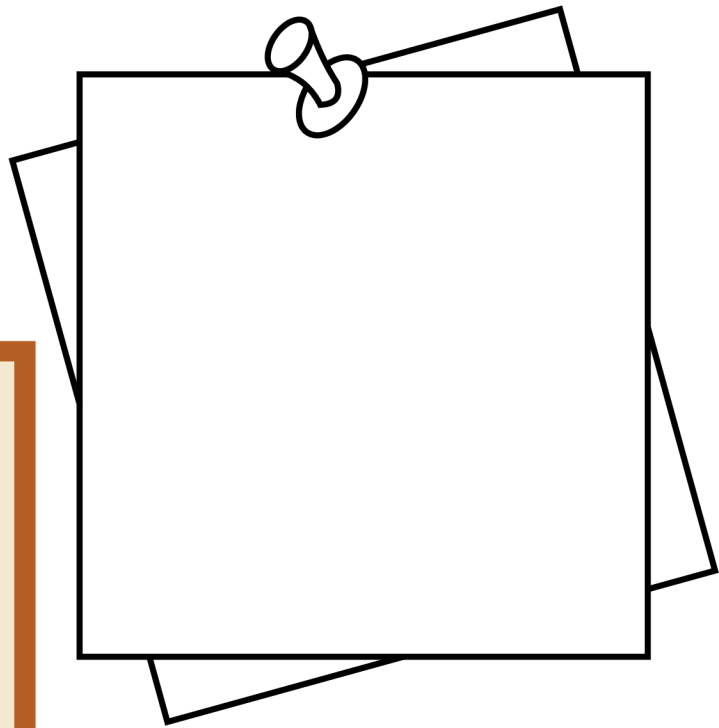
We must be building with the cornerstone, who is Jesus, He is the Master Craftsman, so we are acting like him and we are praying for those who are holding our hands both to the right and to the left.

Dustin taught me about the essential tactic of line leadership in the Marine Corps:

Know your right and left.

This is a critical tool that we must always use when trying to reflect Jesus in leadership roles:

Jesus led his disciples through servant leadership, modeling behavior, and active empowerment. He taught by doing life together, prioritizing love, humility, and mission over authority. Jesus invested deeply in them, gave them authority to minister, and loved them to the point of sacrifice.



Here are key ways Jesus led his disciples, with examples:

Leading by Serving (The Example):

Jesus flipped the script on leadership by washing the disciples' feet—a slave's job—to teach humility and service.

Bible Verse: "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet." — John 13:14

Leading by Modeling (Doing Life Together):

The disciples watched Jesus pray, heal, and preach, which taught them to do the same.

Bible Verse: "For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you." — John 13:15

Delegation and Empowerment:

Jesus didn't just teach; he sent them out with authority to heal and preach.

Bible Verse: "When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases." — Luke 9:1

Relational Mentoring:

Jesus loved his followers, prayed for them, and addressed their needs.

Bible Verse: "I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you." — John 15:15

Challenging and Correcting:

He corrected them to help them grow, such as when he rebuked Peter for focusing on human rather than divine concerns.

Bible Verse: "But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.'" — Matthew 16:23

Investing Time and Teaching:

Jesus used parables and teaching to explain the Kingdom of God, taking time to mentor them privately.

Bible Verse: "But when he was alone, he explained everything to his disciples." — Mark 4:34

Restoring and Rebuilding:

After his resurrection, Jesus pursued Peter, who had denied him, to restore him rather than discard him.

Bible Verse: "He said to him, 'Feed my sheep.'" — John 21:17