



God's People Watch over One Another

MAIN IDEAS

- Jesus has appointed shepherds to watch over and protect His church—men who are pastors and elders.
- Jesus wants all the members of His church to lovingly watch over one another.

MEMORY WORK

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.—1 Peter 5:8

SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON

1) 1 Samuel 17:34-35

3) Acts 20:28

5) 1 Peter 5:8

7) Galatians 5:15

2) John 10:11-12, 27-28

4) 1 Peter 5:1a, 2a

6) Matthew 7:15

8) Luke 17:3

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

Read and talk about Acts 20:28 and 1 Peter 5:1a, 2a. Ask: *In what ways do our pastors and elders—our shepherds—watch over us? Have other members of the church also watched over you in some way? Can you give an example? Why might younger children and newer believers need special protection? How do you respond to their care for your soul? In what ways could you pay more attention to their care?*

Point out that not only does the church have appointed leaders who shepherd the flock, but God has placed a kind of shepherd in the family. God intends for fathers to watch over their children and lead them in God's ways. Ask: *In what ways does a good father protect his child from dangers? Are physical dangers the most important things to watch out for?* Read 1 Peter 5:8; Matthew 7:15; Galatians 5:15; and Luke 17:3. Then talk about how fathers, mothers, and children can apply these verses in the home. Next, talk about the importance of using God's Word in the fight of faith by reading and explaining Ephesians 6:10-11, 13-18a.

ACTIVITY

Without looking in your Bible, see if you can unscramble the letters in the brackets [] in order to correctly complete each verse. Then, check your answers by looking up each verse in your Bible.

† Pay careful _____ [eotttnnai] to yourselves and to all the _____ [lockf], in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.—Acts 20:28

† So I exhort the _____ [dreels] among you...² _____ [heredpsh] the flock of God that is among you...—1 Peter 5:1a, 2a

† Be sober-minded; be _____ [uflathwc]. Your adversary the devil _____ [owrlsp] around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. —1 Peter 5:8

† “Beware of false _____ [shepport], who come to you in _____ [peshes] clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.”—Matthew 7:15

† But if you _____ [tieb] and _____ [uroved] one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.—Galatians 5:15

† “Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother _____ [niss], _____ [kreube] him, and if he repents, forgive him,”—Luke 17:3

