



A Faith Driven Network

## SURVIVOR SHEPHERDING TRAINING

### The Ark Vision

To equip and connect the Body of Christ to Love our neighbors through acts of service.

*“Love God. Love People. Mobilize the Kingdom.”*

James 2:14-20, Revelation 19:7

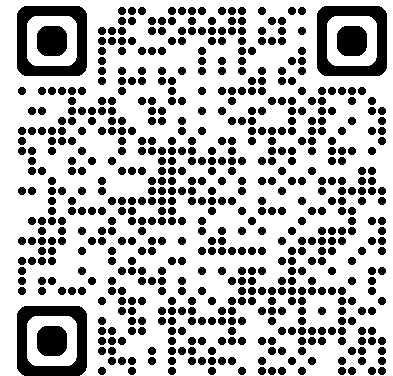
# Shepherd Training Goals:

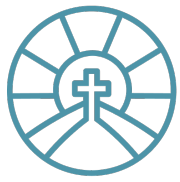
- Be able to explain the Ark of Highland Lakes overall vision
- Specifically explain the Ark vision for Shepherding Survivors
- Have a better understanding of the emotional, spiritual and practical needs of survivor families
- Understand how to build a trusting relationship with your assigned family
- Identify basic steps for beginning the Survivor Shepherding process



# A Network of Churches

The Ark of Highland Lakes is a faith-based nonprofit organization that exists to serve individuals and families in crisis throughout the Highland Lakes region. Formerly known as the Highland Lakes Crisis Network, ARK unites churches, volunteers, and community partners to bring hope, healing, and long-term transformation to those in need.





**ark**  
of Highland Lakes











**ark agape**  
dental clinic





ark

Commissary





**ark**

Valley View





The mission of a **Crisis Response Shepherd** is to ensure that every family impacted by crisis encounters God and finds physical, emotional, and spiritual restoration through the love and support of a trained Shepherd from Ark of Highland Lakes.

## Shepherd Qualifications

- Be a Lover of God.
- Be an Ambassador of Christ, the Church, and Ark of Highland Lakes
- Be an Advocate for your new friend
- Bring the Presence of God into their lives  
Love. Joy. Peace. Patience. Kindness. Goodness.  
Faithfulness. Gentleness. Self-Control.
- Be Dependent on God  
Walk in humility. Intercede and steward His promises.
- Be a conduit connecting them to the Body of Christ

# The Job...

- Meet them where they are.
- Ask open-ended questions to help them process their situation
- Help them with important decisions that may be difficult due to the traumatic event(s)/situation
- Trust the Holy Spirit's leading - this is the key to ministry!
- Check in at least weekly; be constant in prayer; one-on-one relationship; commitment to see the case through to restoration.
- Facilitate the objectives inside the client's recovery plan.

# Vision for a Shepherd

- *“Love God. Love People.” Unconditionally.*
- The Good Samaritan (*Luke 10:25-37*)
  - *“...go and do likewise...”*
- Team approach - You are not alone.
- Discipleship - The client will see/experience Jesus through their encounter with us and desire to draw closer to Christ and other Christ followers

*Every family in crisis will encounter God and be materially, emotionally, and spiritually impacted through the support of a prepared shepherd from a local church.*



# What's the Difference?

<b><u>SHEPHERDING</u></b>	<b><u>BENEVOLENCE</u></b>	<b><u>CASE MANAGEMENT</u></b>
Discipleship	One-time gift	Long-term recovery/support
Friend / Support / Prayer	Designed to show Jesus in the midst of acute need	Facilitates goal setting and accountability
One-on-One relationship	Function of the individual church	Ark
Eyes and Ears Navigator of Resources	Single Transaction / Series of small transaction	Intake, Application, Discernment

# Welcome to Their World

- Let's Identify some likely emotions, attitudes, needs and questions your survivor is experiencing. Throw out some ideas:
- Sadness anger anxiety frustration hope hopelessness sadness confusion discouragement gratitude impatience when is my house going to be fixed?  
why me why me why me who can I call to get this fixed?  
how much longer is this going to take but they said that last week  
what bus is my kid riding now how much is this going to cost



**1. DENIAL**



**2. ANGER**



**3. BARGAINING**



**4. DEPRESSION**



**5. ACCEPTANCE**

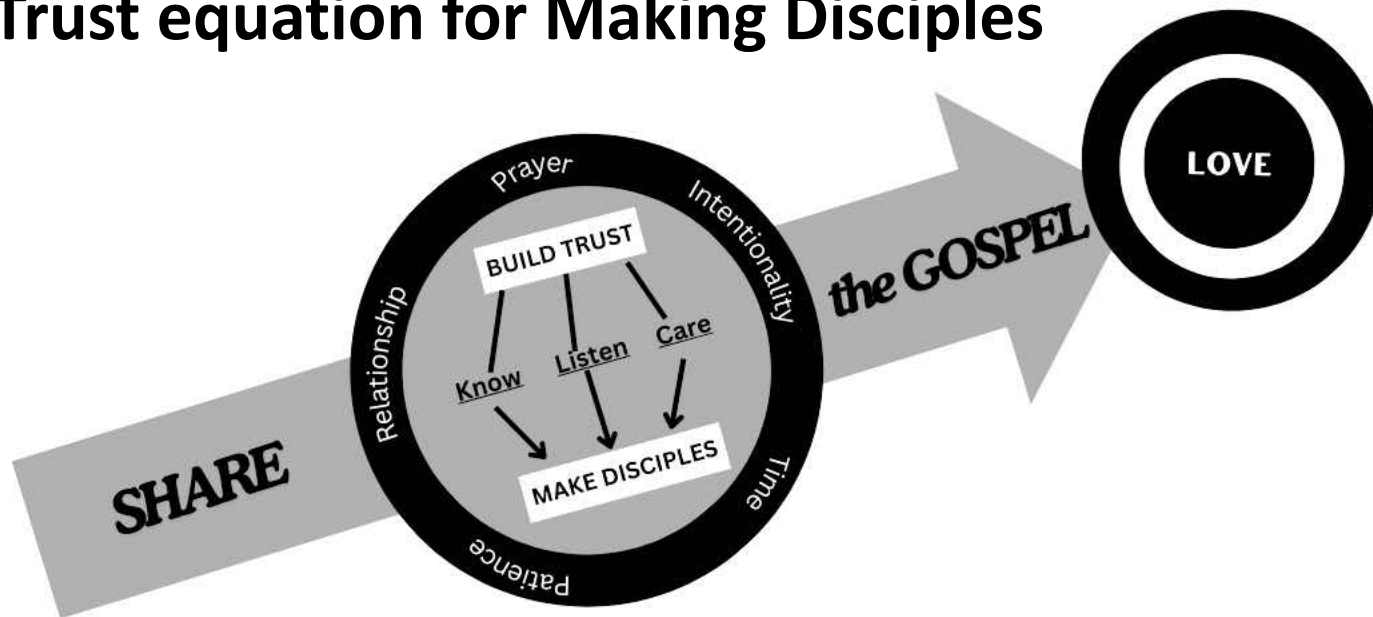
## **STAGES OF GRIEF**

## Key Phrases to Share As Needed

- **Empathy** – I am so sad that you and your family are going through this right now. I assure you that you are not alone. We will get through this together.
- **Affirmation** – Remember, you are a normal person having a normal reaction to an abnormal situation
- **Support** – What could I do right now that would help you the most?
- **Reframe expectations** – I may not be able to do that, but here is what I can do .....



# The Trust equation for Making Disciples



What are your main take-aways as you study this picture?

# Shepherding IS Discipling

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“Discipleship ideally does not follow evangelism. Discipleship actually begins **before** someone’s coming to Christ.”

Jim Egli, You Don’t Understand the First Thing About  
Discipleship,

[www.churchleaders.com](http://www.churchleaders.com)



## In Other Words ...

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Discipleship - the reforming of a person's heart, mind and character to be more like Jesus – begins to take place as they hang around with people who are already loving them like Jesus would and modeling the life of a disciple of Jesus in all their interactions with them. Ultimately, it is the consistent experience of people loving them like Jesus does that eventually brings them to the point of conversion and by that time, they are well on their way to beginning to resemble Jesus, too.



## “WRAP” Around Service

- W: Walk beside them for the duration. Your attitude matters. Lead gently, guide patiently, communicate well.
- R: Relationship. Develop a partnership – God will work through it. Carry them close to your heart. Develop a communication style that proclaims the goodness of God in every interaction.
- A: Advocate: Build them up with your words, be authentic, communicate back to Ark and help empower them to meet their goals.
- P: Pray. Offer prayer. Ask: “How can I pray for you?” Pray for the family on your own, but also pray with them at every encounter.



# Meeting Needs

Gather them to yourself and carry them close to your heart (Isa. 40:11)

## Emotional

- Be present. When we are intentional, regular, consistent: Communication is deliberate; connection is deepened; Christ-likeness is developed; Fruit is produced.
- Listen Well and HEAR their heart. Mourn with those who mourn.
- Prayer and Compassion.

## Spiritual

- Invite God into the center of their need. Lead gently with patience and affirmation.
- Demonstrate the love Christ Jesus: Build a relationship.
- Share the HOPE found in knowing Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

## Physical

- Assess needs. Sheep are most productive when properly cared for (affection) and cared for (food/shelter/safety).
- Help to think through possible solutions
- Communicate needs to Ark Case Management
- Assist with recovery tasks

This requires an investment of time, talent, and effort into the lives of others.

# 4 Ps of Spiritual Influence

Pray for them

Pray with them

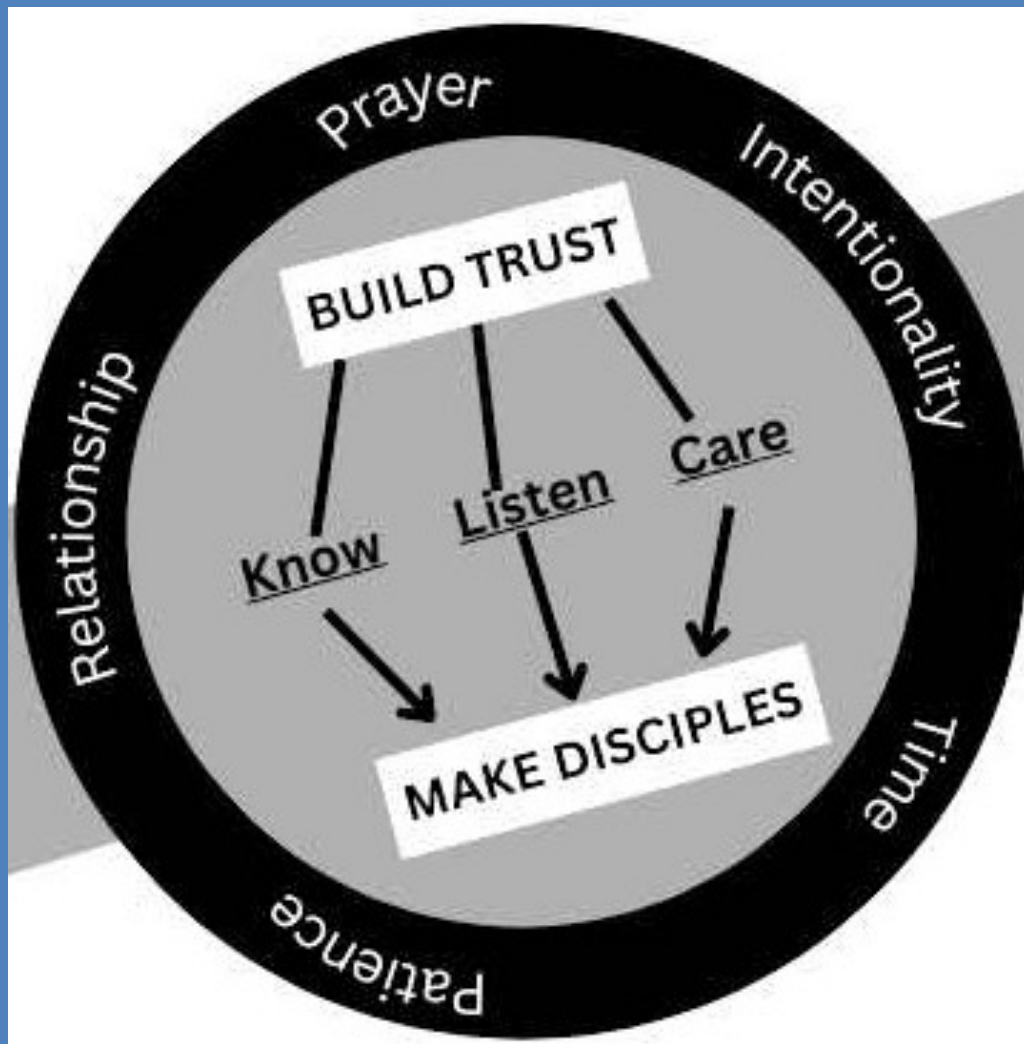
Proclaim the Goodness of God at all times

DON'T Preach

## What NOT To Do

- Do Not: Try to change or fix people
- Do Not: Monopolize the conversation... it's not about you.
- Do Not: Focus on your agenda over the relationship
- Do Not: Push religion on them - invite them into a relationship
- Do Not: Judge or compare them to yourself
- Do Not imply:
  - You know what is best
  - They are less capable than you
  - You can figure things out better than they can
  - You are a counselor.

- Proverbs 4:33 – above all else, guard your heart...
- Acknowledge that you don't have all the answers
- Know when to rest
- Be kind to yourself and forgiving of your mistakes
- Know when you have done all you can
- Know when the situation is out of control
- Know that you cannot do everything and that you should not even try to do some things
- *Know that you do not have to carry the load (financial, emotional, spiritual, etc) on your own.*



**MAKING  
DISCIPLES, JUST  
LIKE BEING A TRUE  
FRIEND, REQUIRES  
TOTAL  
COMMITMENT**



# Shepherd's Instructions and Toolkit



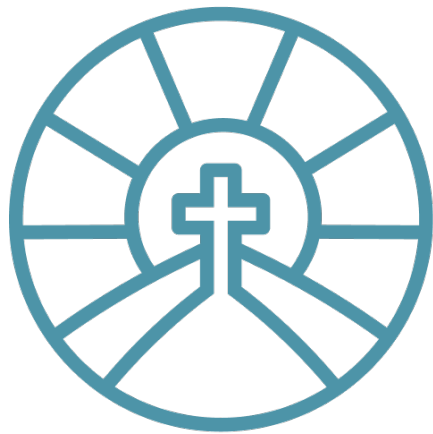
## 1 Peter 3:15

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*... 15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to give an explanation to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, but with gentleness and respect*







**ark**  
**of Highland Lakes**

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