

“Shepherd Staff Development”

by
Dave Tippet

- What** In this humorous sketch, a team-building session for shepherds ends with a huge display that makes believers out of them.
- Themes: Christmas, Shepherds, Good News, Believe
- Who** Shepherd 1- (S1) Any gender, teen, or adult
Shepherd 2- (S2) Any gender, teen, or adult
Shepherd 3- (S3) Any gender, teen, or adult
Shepherd 4- (S4) Any gender, teen, or adult
Shepherd 5- (S5) Any gender, teen, or adult
Bob- Adult male (this role can also be a woman, just change the name to fit the gender)
- When** Night of Christ's birth
- Costumes and Props** Shepherds wear shepherd costumes.
Bob wears a track suit.
One volleyball sized ball set off to the side.
A whistle on a lanyard for Bob to wear.
- Why** John 10:14, 15
- How** Have fun with this script! Keep the dialogue conversational being careful not to overact. This script would be great to use at a Christmas party or program.
- Time** Approximately 4 minutes

At curtain, **S1, 2, 3, 4, and 5** enter with **Bob** trailing. All five **Shepherds** are displaying signs of fatigue/exhaustion, breathing heavily, etc. **Bob** is not breathing hard and is the obvious leader of the group.

Bob: *(trying to encourage the group, very up)* OK, OK, good job everyone!! I know that last team building challenge was a tough one, but you're pretty much doing a great job! *(he holds up his hand)* A shepherd high five! *(the rest do nothing)* Come on! Don't leave me hanging! *(still nothing; he changes tactics encouraging a group circle)* Come on, bring it in! *(the rest look at each other, and reluctantly come over and put their hands in the circle)* OK, on three, flock power! One two three!

S1-5: *(halfhearted, monotone)* Flock power.

Bob: Great! *(Shepherds release hands and move back from circle)* And remember, sheep without a shepherd...

S1-5: *(finishing, eye rolling, monotone)* ...are lost sheep indeed.

Bob: Right! Now, before we get to the balance beam lamb toss, I want to—

S1: Excuse me mister consultant person, can we talk for a minute?

Bob: Sure! This is all about communication and growth!

S1: Um, yea. Anyway. Look, we sort of appreciate this team building thing that the company...um...encouraged us to take. But it's been...well...not so great.

Bob: Huh?

S2: Yeah. Like that high ropes *(air quotes)* adventure. Pretty much a sagging clothesline from that one palm tree to the other.

S3: And that trust fall thing. We got pretty good on the "fall" part.

S2: And the build your own shepherd's staff out of tree bark. Yeah.

S5: It's like...all so...well...so—

S1-5: Boring.

Bob: Boring?

S1: Look, since we have to be here, we were hoping for something more, worth our time you know? We've got stuff going on, we're busy people.

S2: You know, tending our flocks.

S3: *(looking around)* And by night. Which, in fact, it's getting to be.

Bob: Boring? *(trying to make his case)* Even the zip line that went over the sheep pens, around the big sand dune, past the wolf's dens, by Willie, the emotional support sheep, and ended up the big slash down in well by the oasis?!

They look at each other, then in unison, shrugging.

S1-5: Meh.

Bob: But—

S3: And we've heard the takeaways before. We get it.

S4: *(quoting)* Work together.

S5: Be the good news to each other.

S2: Notice the little things. Have child-like faith, don't fear.

Bob: Yes, exactly what I've been saying today after each event, and I'm just trying to instill those lessons through this stuff. *(trying to salvage things)* Look, we still have lots to do and we're losing light! I've got something new! *(they all groan)* Get in a circle *(they reluctantly do so)*. Now, I'm going to toss this ball to someone and when you get the ball, you're to say what your best takeaway so far is from all we've done. Come on, it'll be fun! OK, here we go! *(he tosses the ball to S1 who catches it)* Now, tell us your takeaway!

S1: Um...uh...don't get on a sagging clothesline that's 30 feet in the air?

Bob: Um, OK, good start, good start. Now toss it to someone else... *(S1 tosses to S2 who lets it hit them in the chest and it drops. They then slowly pick it up)* Whadda got?!

S2: Um, OK, don't get sick while on the zip line. *(pause)* And stuff.

Bob: Yes, well, we'll forget about that one. Next! *(ball goes to S3 who catches it)*

S3: *(sarcastic)* Oh, yeah, and that skit you made us do. *(quoting)* The Shepherd and the Wolf with the wet hacking cough. My takeaway was the wolf should have stayed home in bed.

Bob: *(pauses, then shoulders slump. He stops being enthusiastic, with defeated tone).* OK, OK, maybe it's not as effective as you'd want, but what do I have to do to get your attention? To make you see?

*Suddenly, all the **Shepherds** mime seeing a blinding bright light and a HUGE spectacle behind **Bob**. He turns around and sees what they see. He points in the same direction, shielding his eyes.*

Bob: WOW! Look that that! The light! The light! The...the...beings in the sky! Wait, listen, one of them is talking... Fear not? Fear not! Great joy? Great joy! A child? A child! A messiah! Born! To us, all of us! *(turns to others)* You guys seeing this?! Hearing this?! *(turns back to the scene off stage)* Wow!! *(then acts as if the light has gone and no longer shielding his eyes)* Whoa! Gone! *(turns to the group)* Do you believe what we just saw?? Wow!! Didn't you see? Didn't you hear?

All stand in shock, and then start a slow clap.

S1: *(dumbfounded)* Wow. Got to hand it to you, Bob, that was, um...

S2: *(amazed)* Amazing.

Bob: Huh?

S3: *(still shocked)* Don't know how you did it, but, well, honestly...

S1-5: *(sincere)* Wow.

Bob: But—

S1: I guess we underestimated you.

Bob: What? No, I didn't do that. *(thinking)* I wish I had done it, but no—

S3: Dude, we're giving credit where credit is due. You made believers out of us.

Bob: Really?

S4: Yeah.

S1: Yep.

Beat.

S4: *(can't contain his excitement)* So, are we going to see the child or what?!

Bob: Um...uh...YES!

S4: *(slightly sarcastic)* We're not going to have to zip line down there, are we?

Bob: *(smiles)* No. Not this time *(pause, quietly)* Sheep without a shepherd—

S1: ...are lost sheep indeed. *(pause, smiles)* Let's go be found.

They start to exit.

S4: *(to Bob as they walk)* By the way, the sheep toss was kinda fun.

Bob: Oh thanks! I worked really hard on that. You know, people just don't enjoy a good sheep tossing these days... *(exiting, his voice trails off)*

Lights out.