

Shepherds After My Own Heart: Cultivating Compassion, Courage and Competence

After a year of interviews with Bedouin shepherds and a comprehensive study of ancient Near Eastern pastoralists, Tim has been writing and teaching about the calling God has for all Christian leaders. He will highlight the context of the Bible's primary image for leaders by blending stories, images, and applications. Our session will inspire your heart while providing a biblical theology of leadership that takes into account our role as followers and leaders in a world that is inhospitable, hostile and uncertain.

Tim Laniak's twin passions of the Bible and cross-cultural ministry have overlapped since his sense of calling in high school. Tim pursued a Bible and culture focus at Wheaton College, Gordon-Conwell Seminary, Jerusalem University College, and Harvard University while serving with his wife in short-term missions in numerous countries and ministering to international students and immigrants in the US. For 25 years prior to joining ODB Ministries, he served at Gordon-Conwell Seminary as Bible professor and Dean. During these years he wrote six books on Esther, Exegesis, and Spiritual Shepherding (ShepherdLeader.com), and created a 45-course multi-media curriculum for Bible study (BibleJourney.com). In 2022 Tim became the SVP of Global Content at Our Daily Bread Ministries where he oversees an online non-formal university with about 65,000 learners (ODBU.org).

Key Scriptures: Psalm 23; Ezek 34; John 21

Q1. What kind of "heart" is needed to be a spiritual shepherd? (Jer 3:15; 1 Pet 5:2-4)

Q2. How are people in your ministry context getting "lost" today? (John 10; Acts 20:28-31)

Q3. How do people in your ministry context need to be protected from both outside and inside threats today? (Prov 2)

Compassionate provision: God seeks compassionate and nurturing shepherds who sustain His people with provision in an inhospitable environment.

Courageous protection: God seeks courageous and vigilant shepherds who secure His people with protection in a hostile environment.

Competent Guidance: God seeks wise and competent shepherds who guide His people with a shared mission in an uncertain environment.

Personal reflections:

Supplementary Resources: (Both have extensive bibliographies for further reading.)

Shepherds After My Own Heart: Pastoral Traditions and Leadership in the Bible (Apollos, IVP, 2006)

The Good Shepherd: 40 Biblical Insights on Leading and Being Led (ODB Publishing, 2024)