

Introduction: *Help your group members get engaged with the lesson.*

The British essayist Walter Savage Landor wrote, “When small men cast long shadows, it’s a sign that the sun is setting.”

Lead your students to interact with the above quote. If possible, have them give an example of this type of leader that they have experienced.

[Source: Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Heroic (Minor Prophets): Demonstrating Bravery By Your Walk* (Wheaton: Victor Books, 1997), 17.

Part 1: *Check for application using “Think-Pair-Share” technique.*

Have your group members watch the clip “Death Crawl” from the movie *Facing the Giants* (3 minutes, 27 seconds). It is available at <http://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/facing-the-giants/death-crawl>.

Think-Pair-Share: Say something like the following: “Brock is one of the key leaders on the team. Why did Coach Taylor challenge him? Why is it important that leaders set the example? **Think** for 30 seconds about this. Now I want you to discuss this in **pairs** with a person on your left or right who is not your spouse.” (Pause for 60 seconds). Call on 3-4 pairs to **share** one idea.

Part 2: *Engage your group members with an example.*

Stephen is an excellent example of a preacher who was willing to tell the truths of the Word of God to those who did not want to hear them. It ended up costing him his life. Instruct your to students read Acts 7, especially verses 51-60.

Then ask the following question: “What do we learn from Stephen about the characteristics of a faithful preacher of the Word of God?” Allow 2-3 group members to share their insights.

Part 3: *Help your group members grasp a concept.*

This section discusses following God's leadership in our lives by following His shepherds in the church. Ask a volunteer to read Hebrews 13:17 aloud. Then lead the group to discuss the meaning of the passage and some ways we can follow its instruction. Allow 1-2 students to share their insights.

Conclusion: *Challenge for application.*

Ask the following: "In light of the fact that Christians are to submit to our shepherd and the Word of God, in what areas of life do you need to ask the Holy Spirit to work so that you will be a more effective servant of the Lord?"

Allow the group to spend a few minutes with God in prayer asking Him to aid them in this task.

Teaching Tip of the Week

Anytime you try something new, like active learning techniques, there is a danger in focusing so much on the activity for its own sake that your group members miss the main point of the lesson and fail to reflect on what they are learning. The main value in active learning comes from thinking about the activities after they are completed and openly discussing their meaning with others. Ensure that your lessons use active learning techniques that include suggestions that help students reflect on what they have just experienced. If the group cannot link the activity to a point of learning emphasis, then the activity did not accomplish its intended goal.