



# Teenage Shepherds of Christ

A study of how teenagers can become shepherds of Christ through their understanding of Christ's sacrifice.

*How can I be a shepherd to those needing compassion and leadership?*

## PRAYERS

### OPENING PRAYERS—THE TROPARION TO THE CROSS:

“Save, O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance; grant victory to the faithful over their adversaries. And protect Your commonwealth, by the power of Your Cross.”

### CLOSING PRAYERS—THE KONTAKION TO THE CROSS:

“You who were lifted upon the Cross of Your own will, O Christ our God, bestow Your compassions upon the commonwealth that bears Your Name. By Your power, gladden our faithful rulers, giving them victory over their adversaries. May your alliance be for them a weapon for peace, an invincible standard.”

*How can I be a shepherd to those needing compassion and leadership?*



Jesus said again, “I am telling you the truth I am the gate for the sheep. All others who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the

gate. Those who come in by me will be saved; they will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only in order to steal, kill, and destroy. I have come in order that you might have life—life in all its fullness. I am the good shepherd, who is willing to die for the sheep. When the hired man, who is not a shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees a wolf coming, he leaves the sheep and runs away; so the wolf snatches the sheep and scatters them. The hired man runs away because he is only a hired man and does not care about

the sheep. I am the good shepherd. As the Father knows me and I know the Father, in the same way I know my sheep and they know me. And I am willing to die for them. There are other sheep which belong to me that are not in this sheep pen. I must bring them, too; they will listen to my voice, and they will become one flock with one shepherd.”

**1 Peter 5:1-4:** I, who am an elder myself, appeal to the church elders among you. I am a witness of Christ's sufferings, and I will share in the glory that will be revealed. I appeal to you to be shepherds of the flock that God gave you and to take care of it willingly, as God wants you to, and not unwillingly. Do your work, not for mere pay, but from a real desire to serve. Do not try to rule over those who have been put in your care, but be examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the glorious crown which will never lose its brightness.

**Acts 20:28:** So keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock which the Holy Spirit has placed in your care. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he made his own through the blood of his Son.

## PASSAGES

**Ezekiel 34:11-12:** I, the Sovereign Lord, tell you that I myself will look for my sheep and take care of them in the same way as shepherds take care of their sheep that were scattered and are brought together again. I will bring them back from all the places where they were scattered on that dark, disastrous day.

**John 10:2-16:** “The man who goes in through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him; the sheep hear his voice as he calls his own sheep by name, and he leads them out. When he has brought them out, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they know his voice. They will not follow someone else; instead, they will run away from such a person, because they do not know his voice.” Jesus told them this parable, but they did not understand what he meant. So

## PATRISTICS

## ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CHURCH'S SHEPHERDS

“For he said, ‘Peter, do you love me more than these? Tend my sheep.’ He might have said to him, ‘If you love me, practice fasting, sleeping on the bare ground, and prolonged vigils; champion the wronged; be ‘as father to the fatherless and instead of a husband to their mother.’” In fact, he passes over all this. And what does he say? ‘Tend my sheep.’ ...

## PRAXIS

Who are our shepherds today?

## PARTICIPATION

Consider how you can be a positive influence in your Church, school or neighborhood – for example, giving of your time to be a tutor, mentor or volunteer. This will help enable you to become positive role models in your community (i.e., shepherds of their flock).

Visit the web site of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: <http://www.patriarchate.org>.

Visit the web site of the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries: <http://www.youth.goarch.org>.

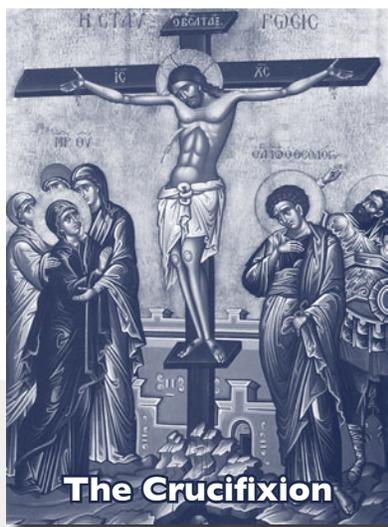
Read pertinent selections from the Bible.

Read *Celebration: Feasts and Holy Days*, Robert Snyder, Orthodox Christian Education Commission.

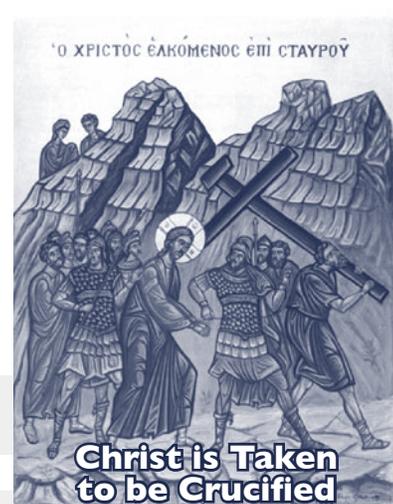
Read *The Orthodox Church: A Well Kept Secret*, Fr. George Nicozisin, Light and Life Publishing Company.



SS. Constantine & Helen



The Crucifixion



Christ is Taken to be Crucified