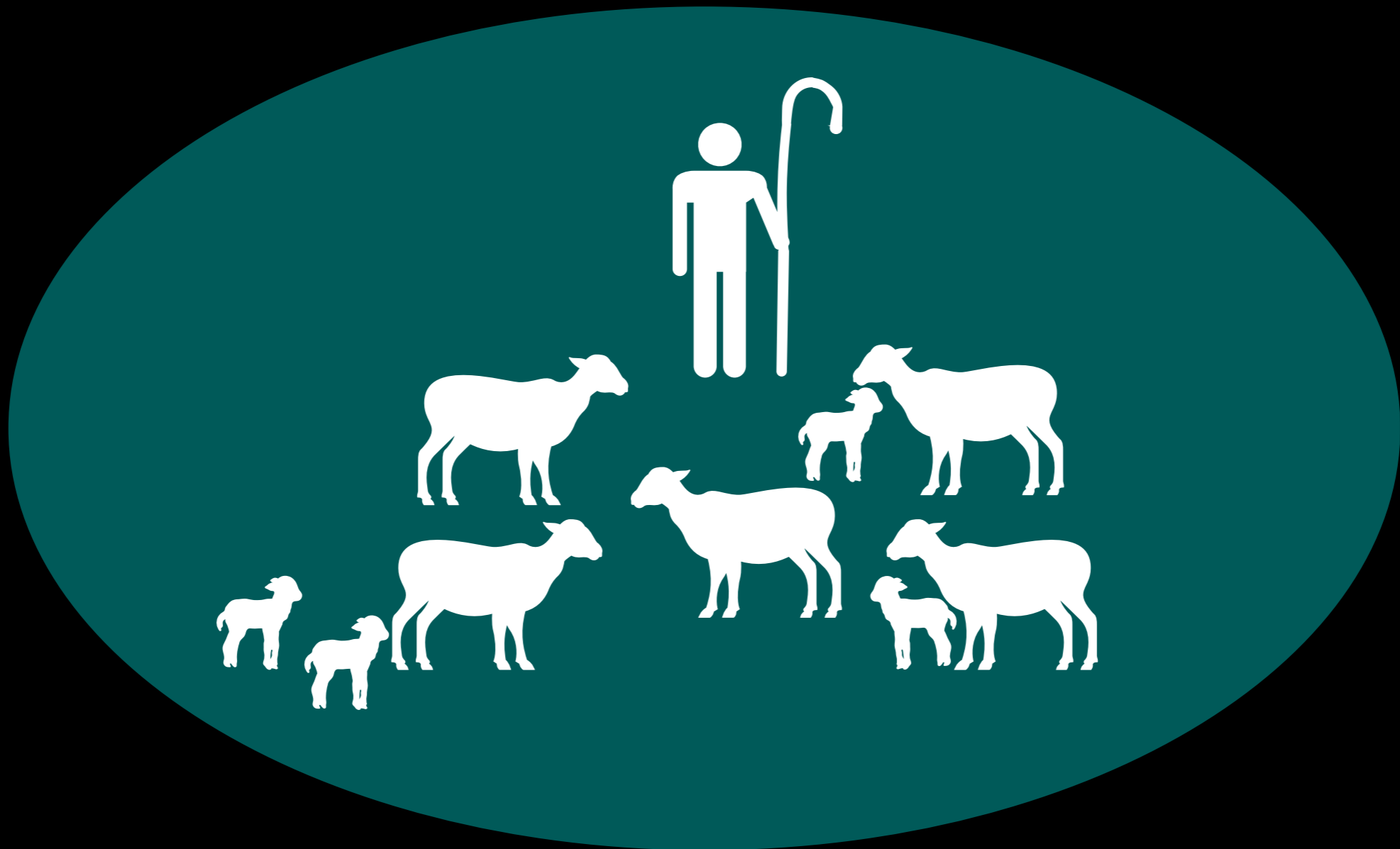


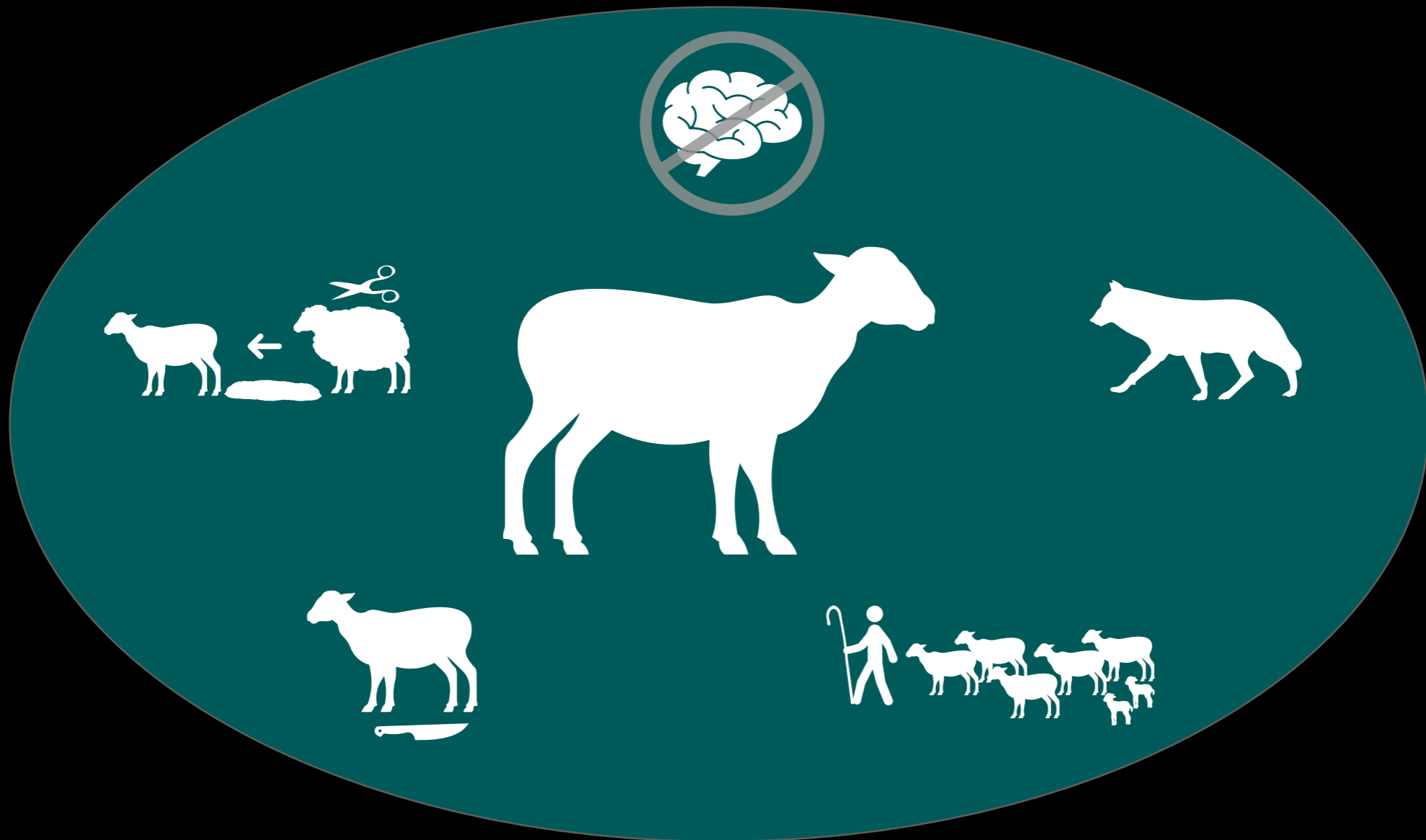
Shepherding Through Community Groups



Ephesians 4:11-16

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. (Ephesians 4:11-16)

Characteristics of sheep



“Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.” (Psalms 100:3)

Shepherd, Overseer, Elder, Pastor, Bishop, Steward



**These words all refer to the same thing in the
New Testament - those who are shepherding
small or large congregations.**

Characteristics of shepherds



Shepherds in the early church were typically not well educated or paid professionals.

Shepherds are men called by God...



And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers...
(Ephesians 4:11)

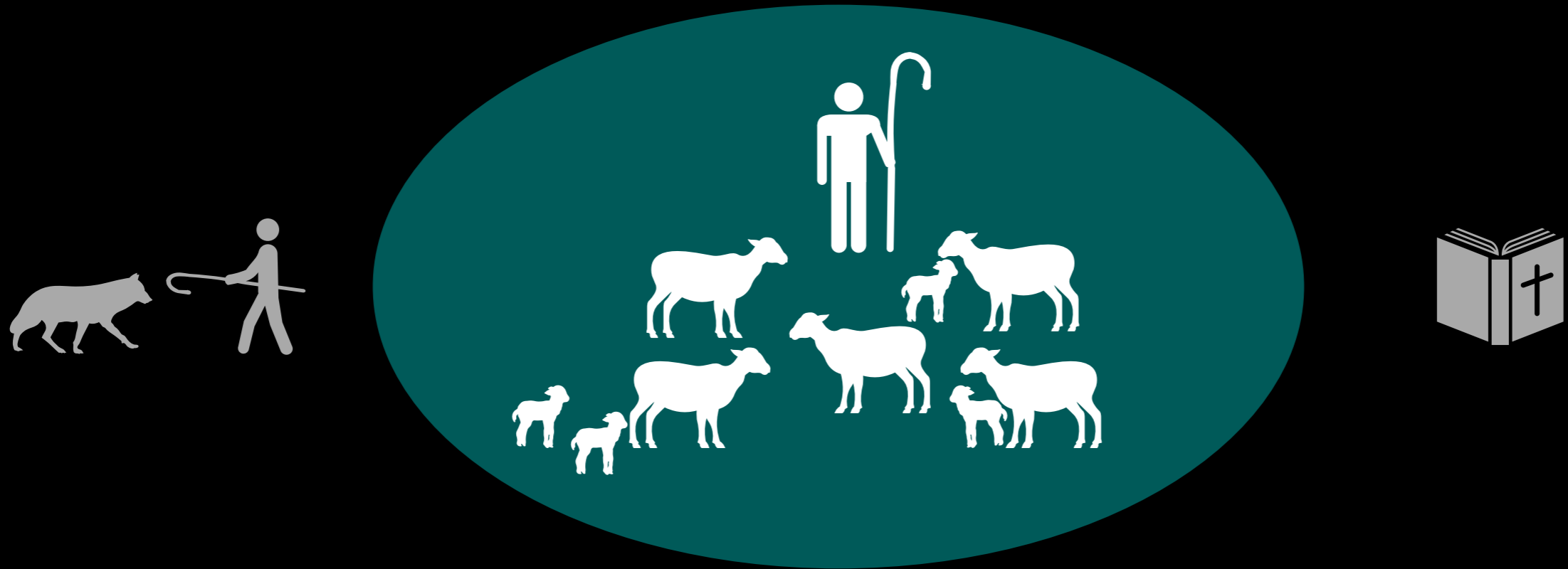
The task of equipping the congregation for ministry

The Shepherds are not supposed to do all of the ministry!



...to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, (Ephesians 4:12)

To raise us up to spiritual maturity...



...until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. (Ephesians 4:13-14)

Shepherds are to hold us accountable...



Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up
in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,
(Ephesians 4:15)

The goal is not individual but communal spiritual growth... (Community)

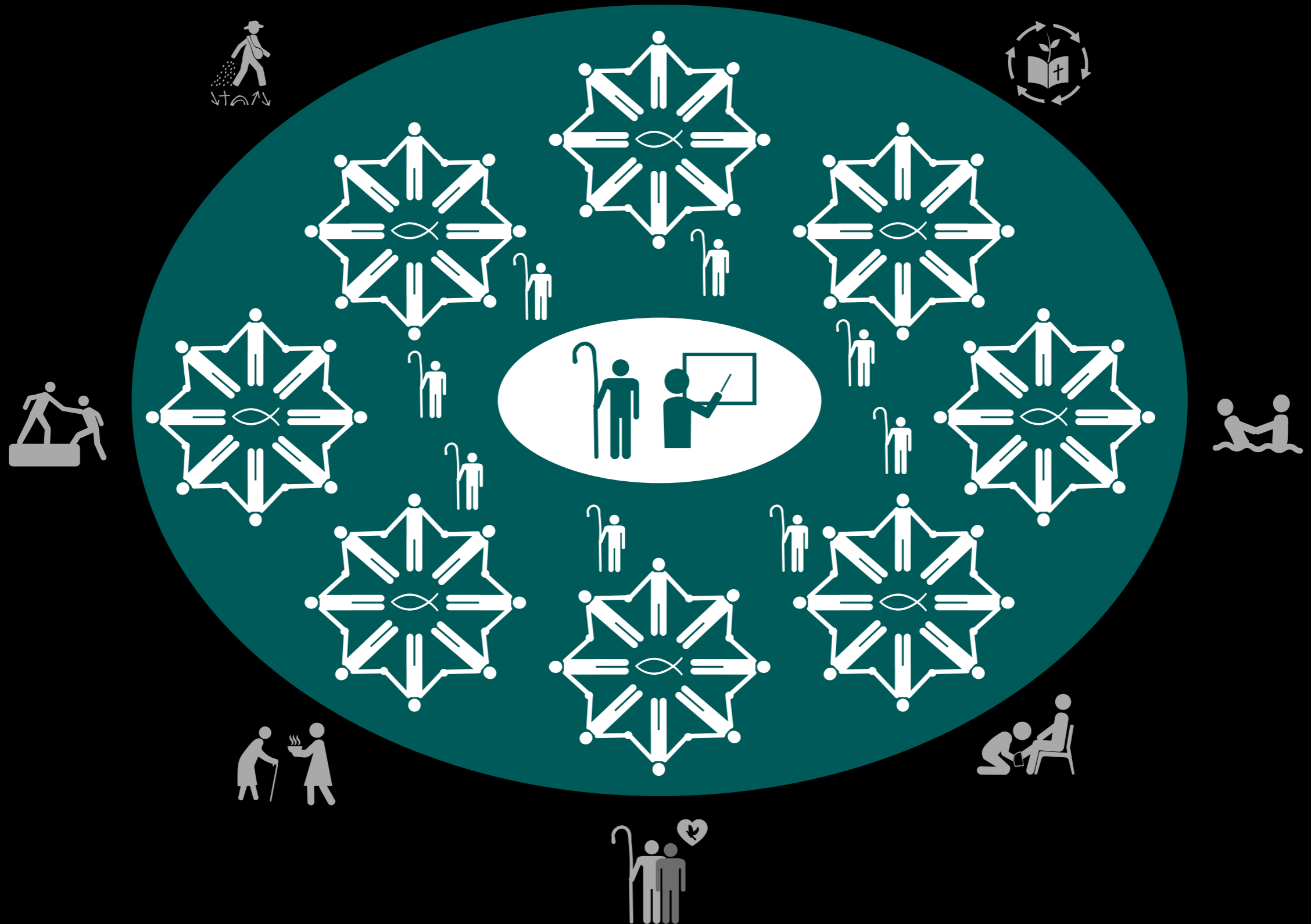
The question should never be, “What can this community group do for me?”



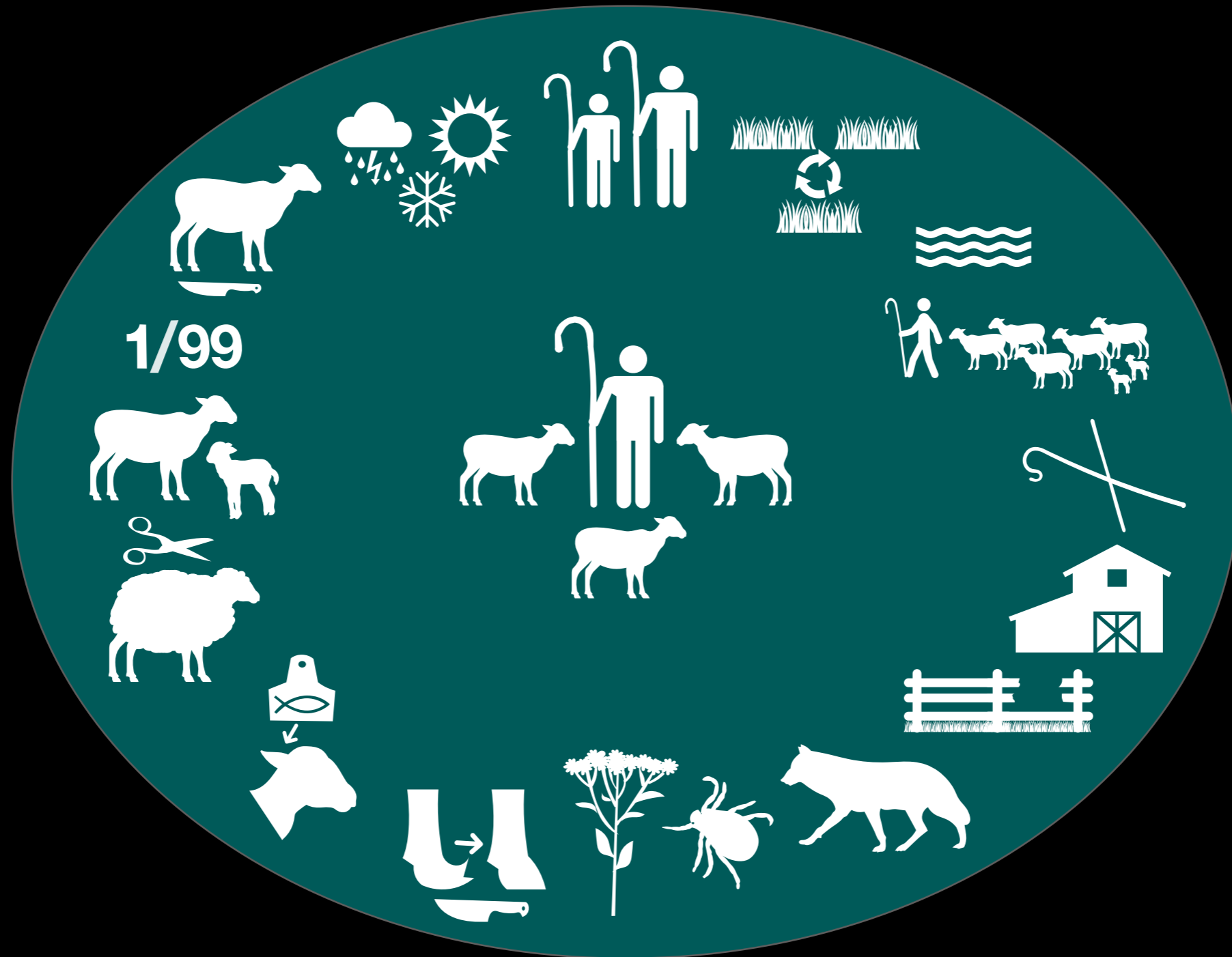
The question should always be, “What part can I play in building up this community group?”

...from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. (Ephesians 4:16)

JICF Community Groups



We want to teach Basic shepherding Skills



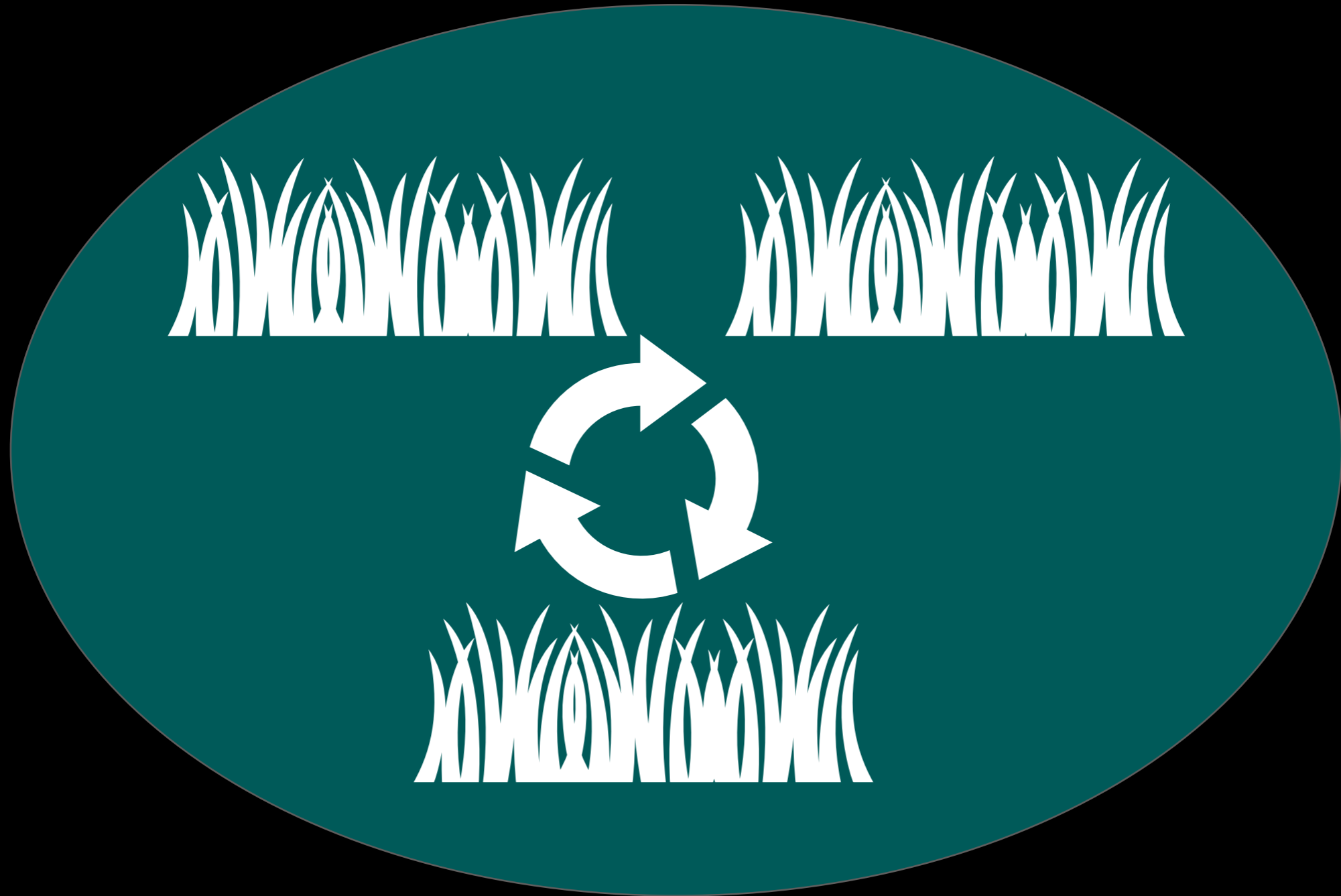
Mentor younger shepherds

(Learn to identify and develop the next generation of leaders)



Rotate pastures often

(Teach all of Scripture)



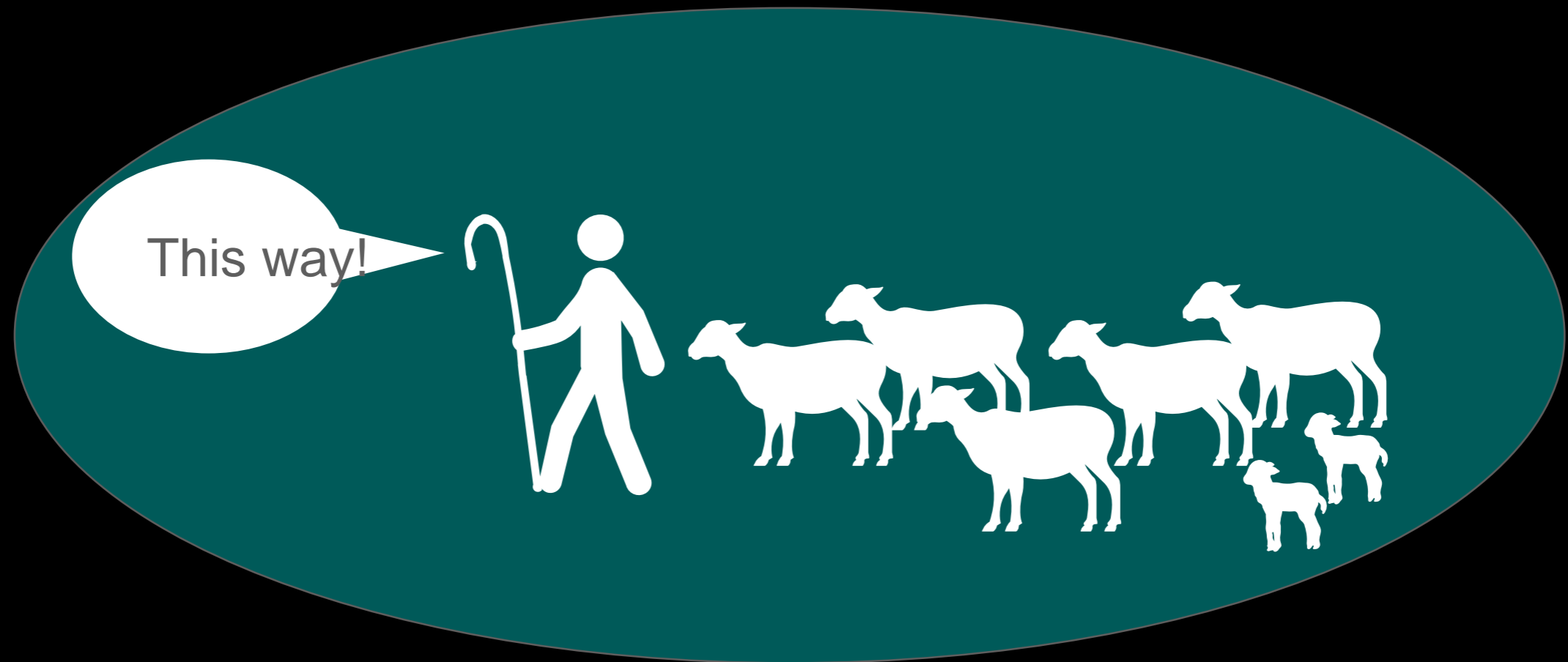
Lead sheep to quiet water

(Teach in a way people can understand and obey)



Help your sheep know your voice

(Provide effective and biblical leadership)



Use both the rod and the staff

(Provide effective leadership with biblical accountability and discipline)



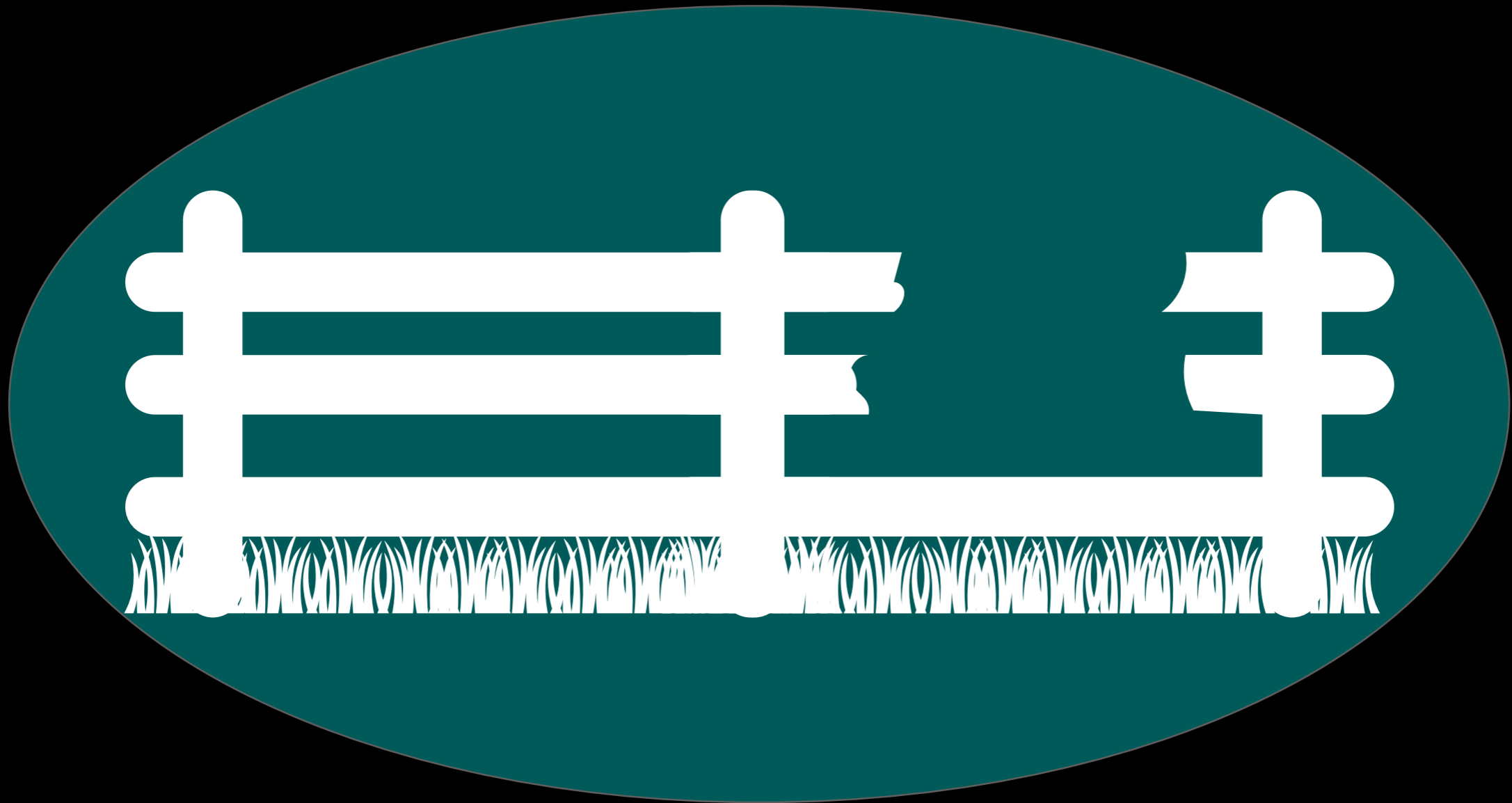
Provide a safe shelter

(Develop trust)



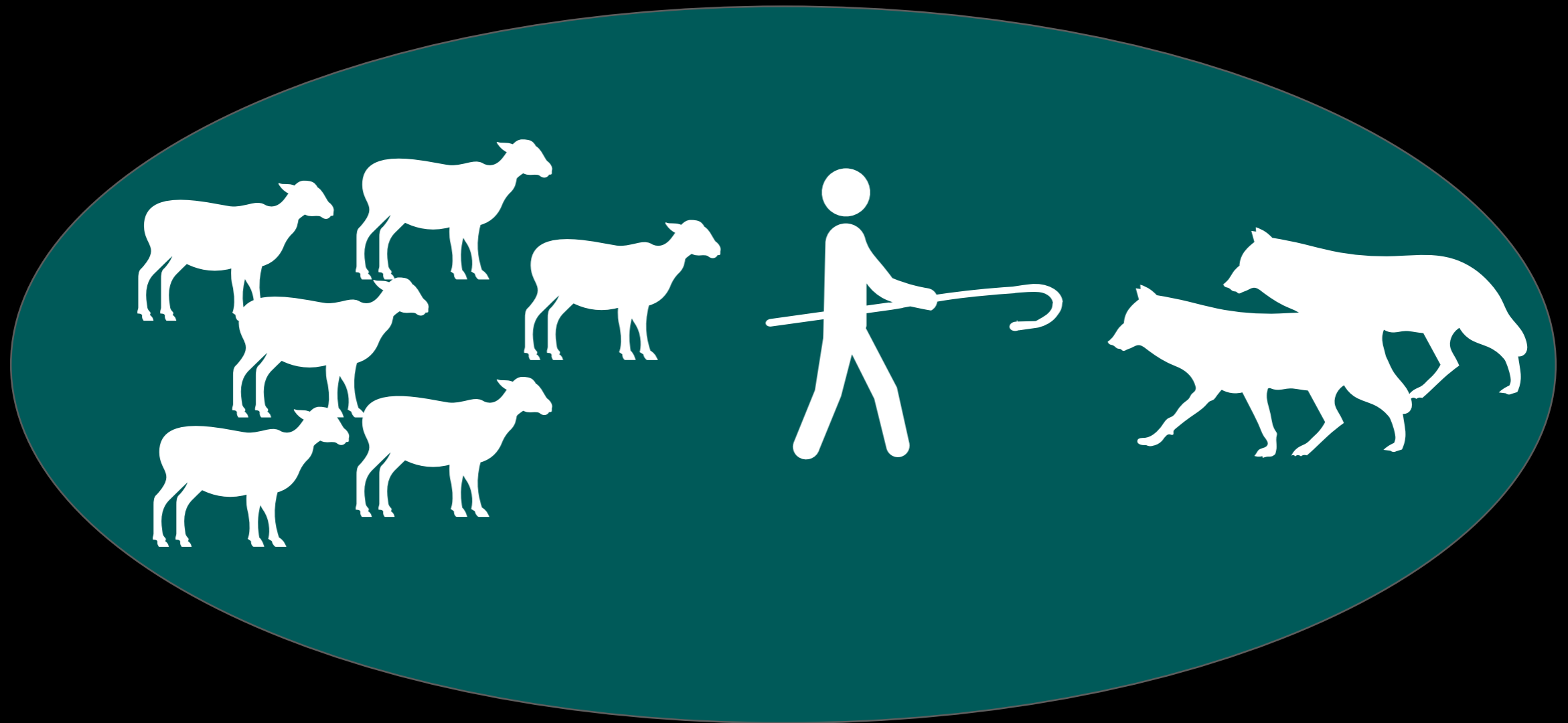
Keep fences in repair

(Clearly and routinely define biblical faith and practice)



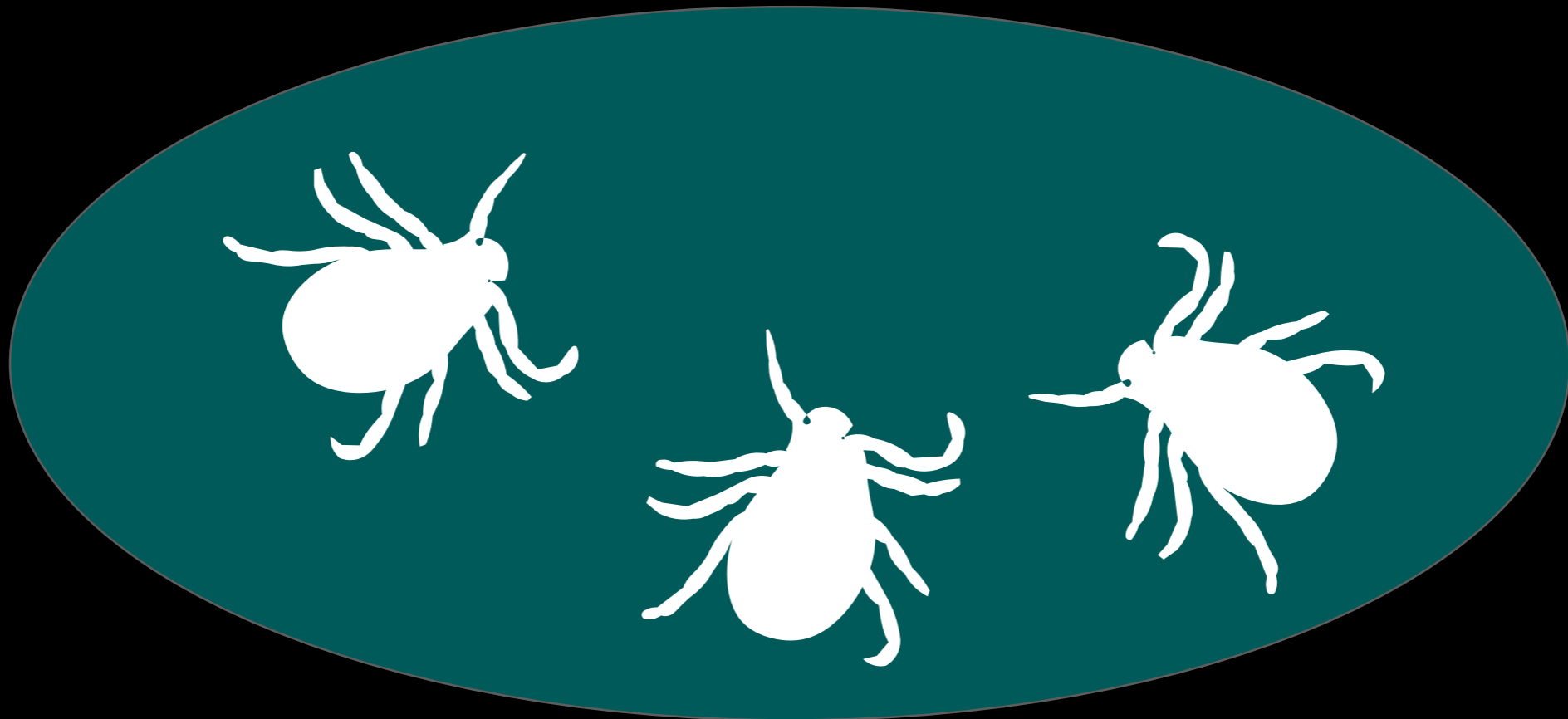
Guard against wolves

(Confront false teaching and teachers)



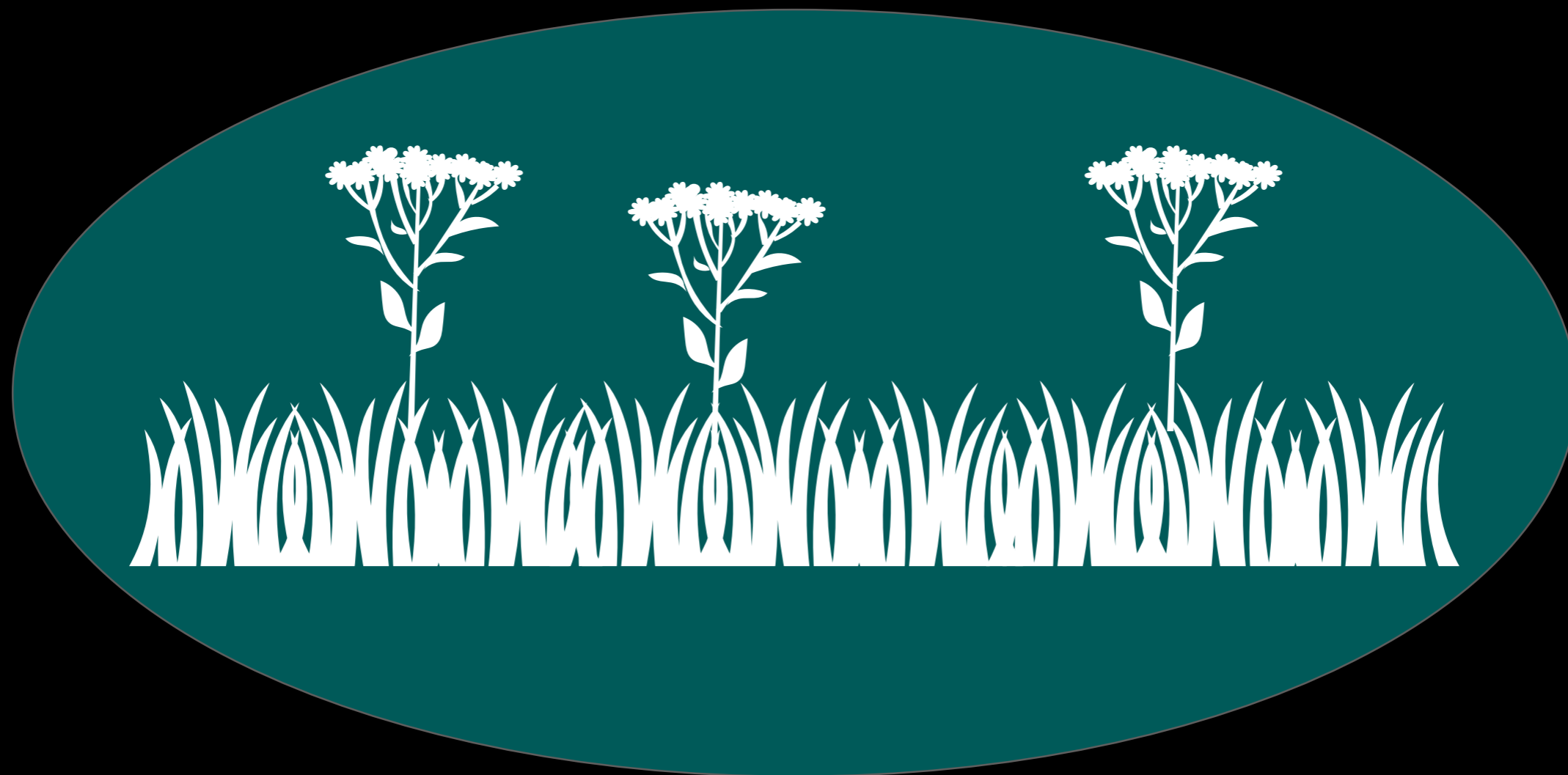
Get rid of parasites

(Learn to identify and deal with addictions)



Pull up poisonous weeds

(Deal with gossip)



Routinely clean and trim hooves

(Address common morality issues gently and routinely)



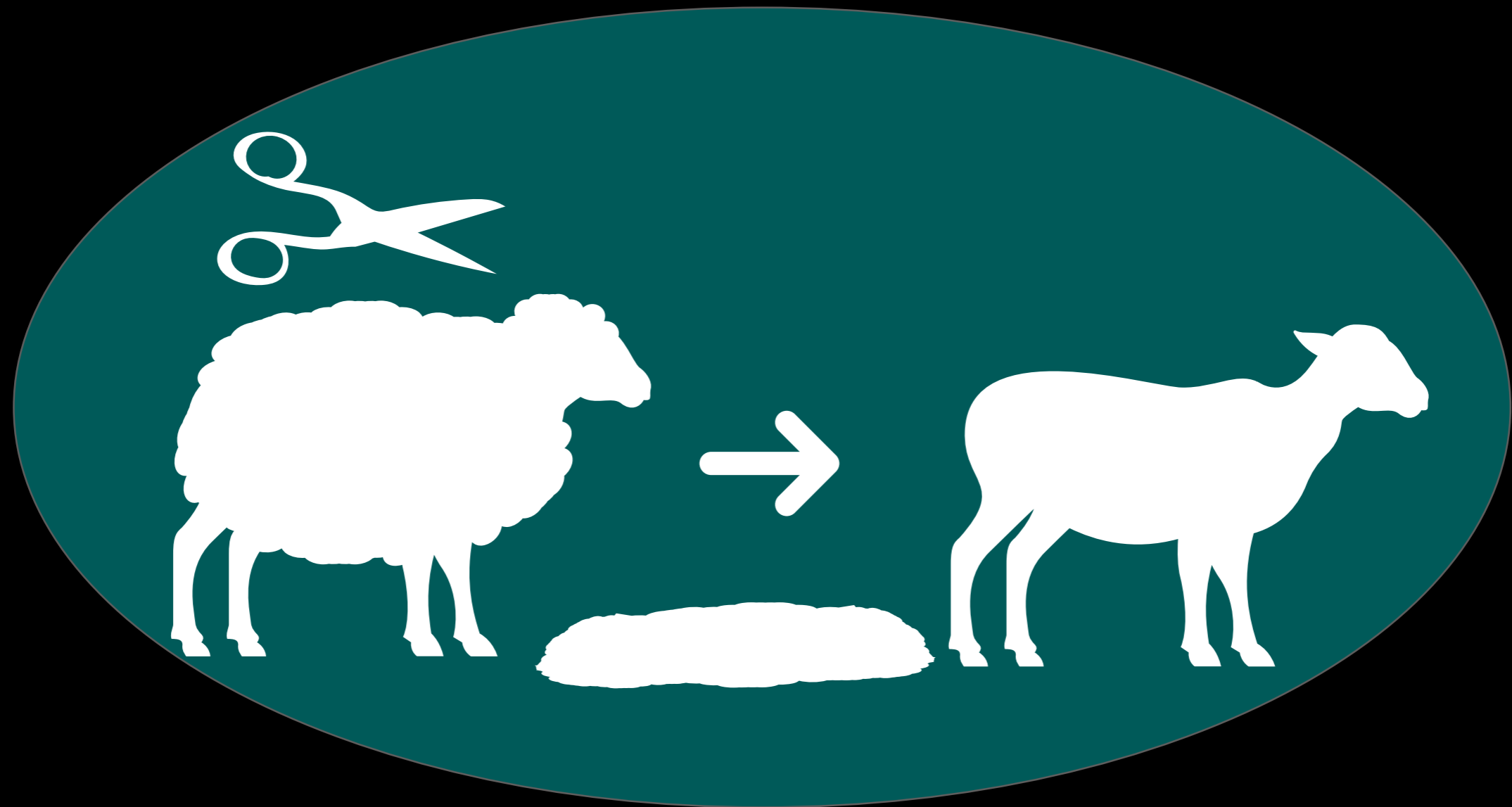
Help sheep identify with the flock and Master

(Develop strong fellowship and community)



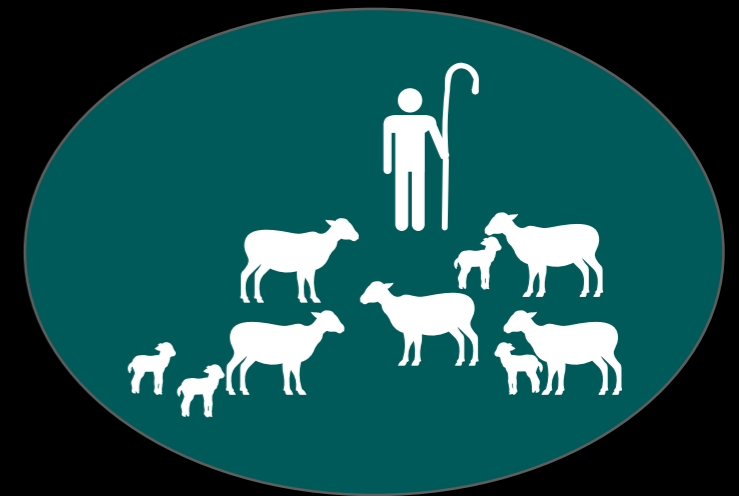
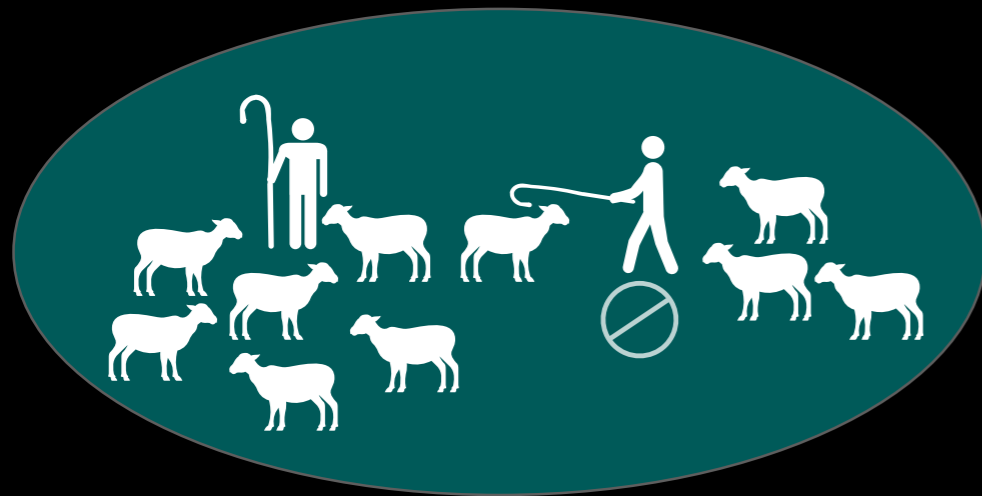
Learn to shear sheep

(Help members overcome and utilize difficult experiences for the Kingdom of God)



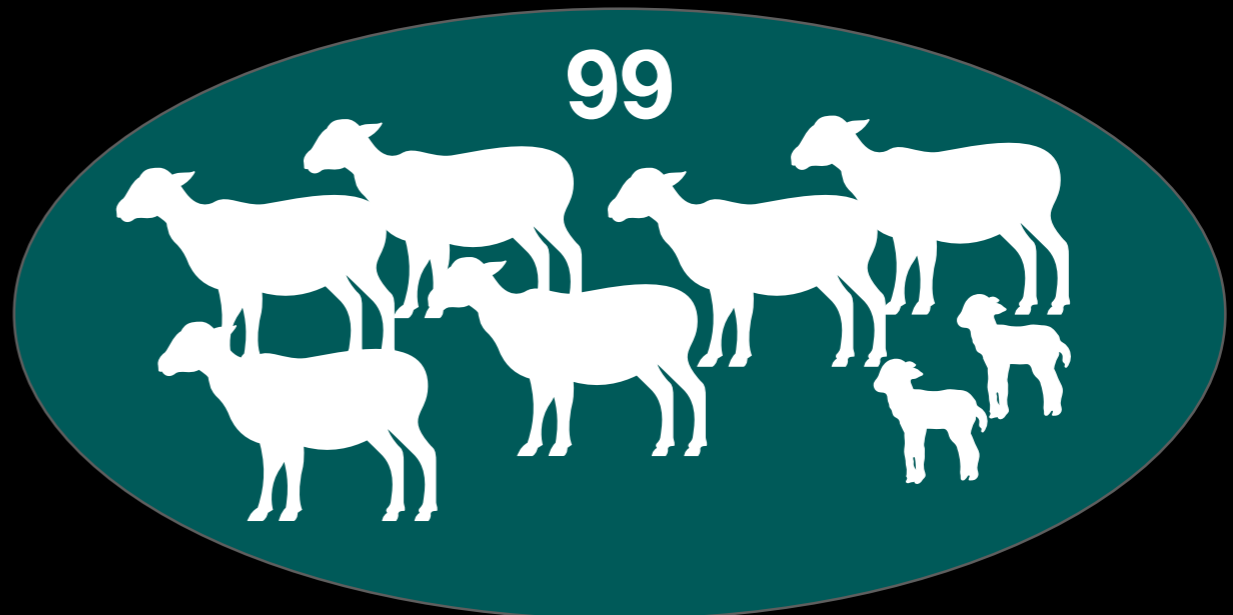
Grow by reproduction, not poaching

(Grow through evangelism and discipleship rather than drawing members from other churches)



Leave the 99, go after the 1

(Reach out to those who drop out of the group)



Remove unmanageable sheep

(Practice biblical church discipline)



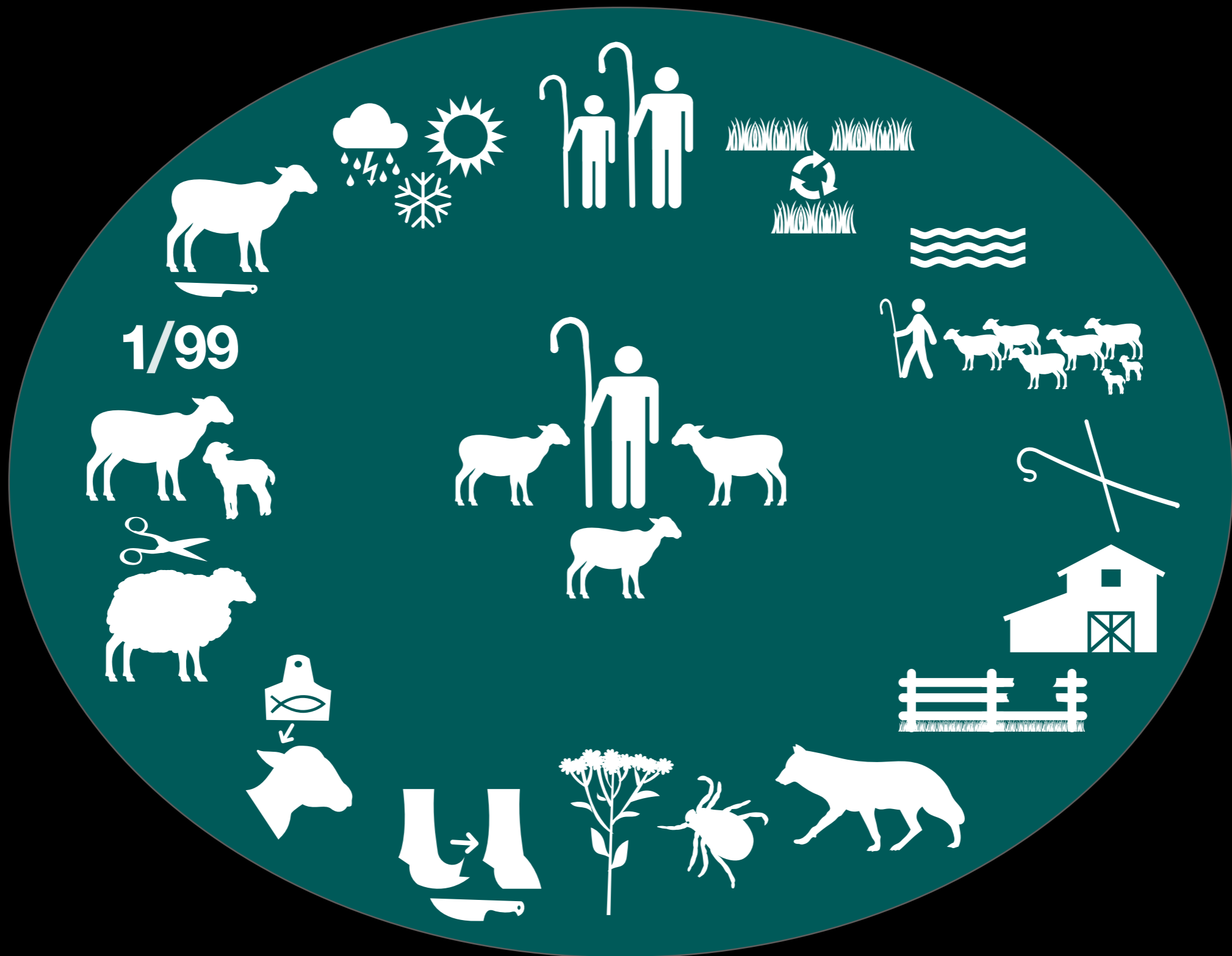
**Not literally killing
anyone off:)**

Know the seasons

(Learn to address the needs of different stages of spiritual growth)



Basic shepherding Skills

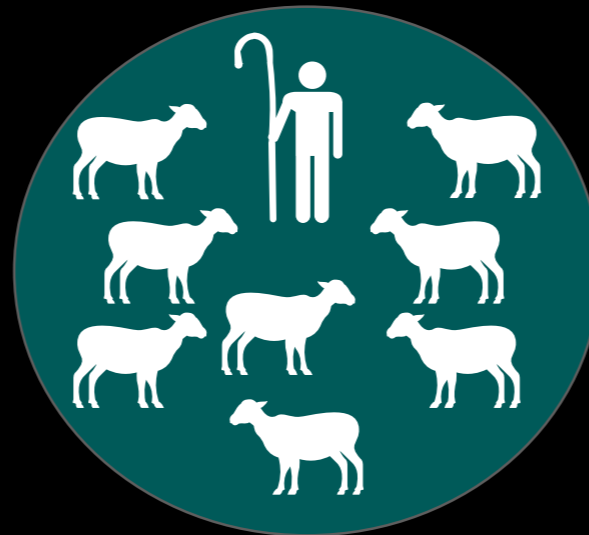


Suggested Shepherd-to-flock ratio

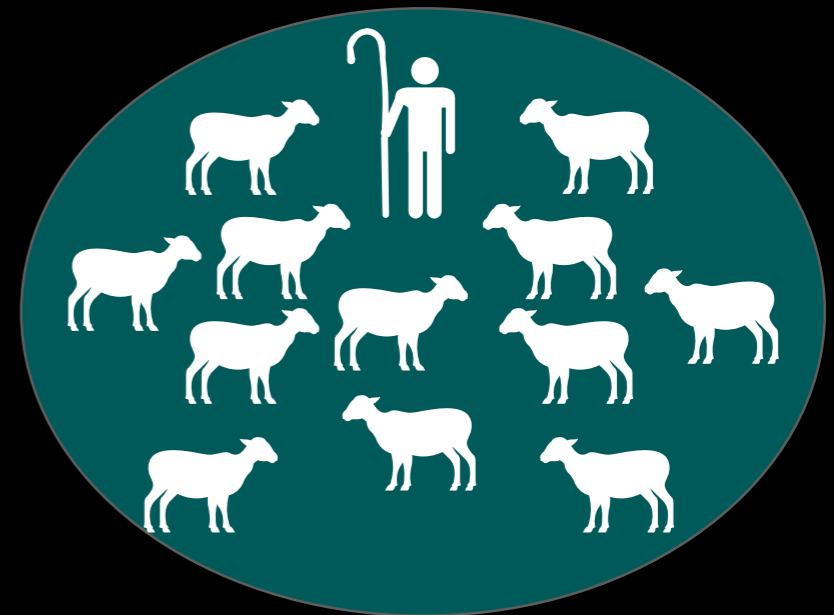
3-5
Easy to Manage



6-8
Maximum Effectiveness

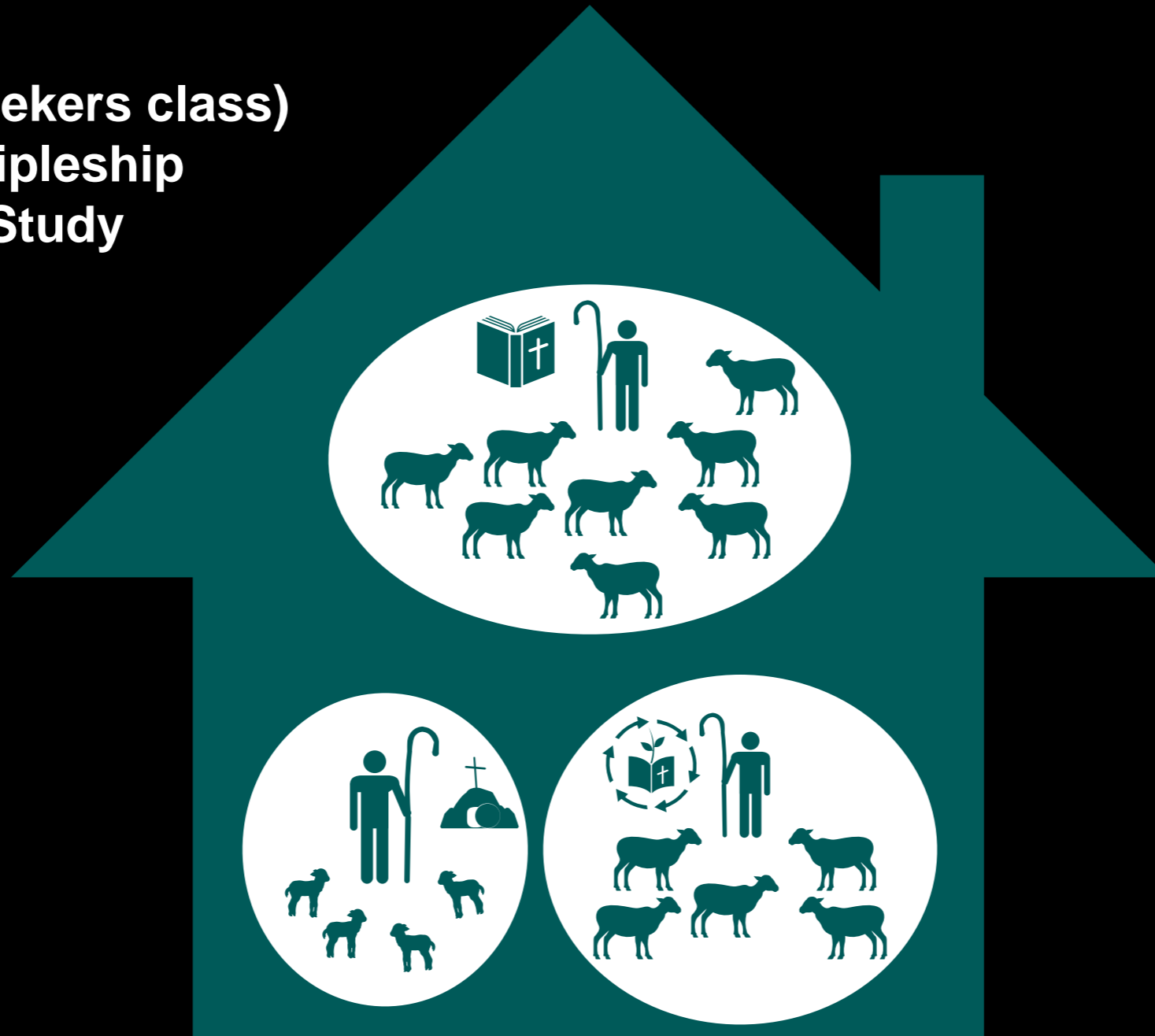


9-12
Relational Strain



Consider Creative ways to use meeting space

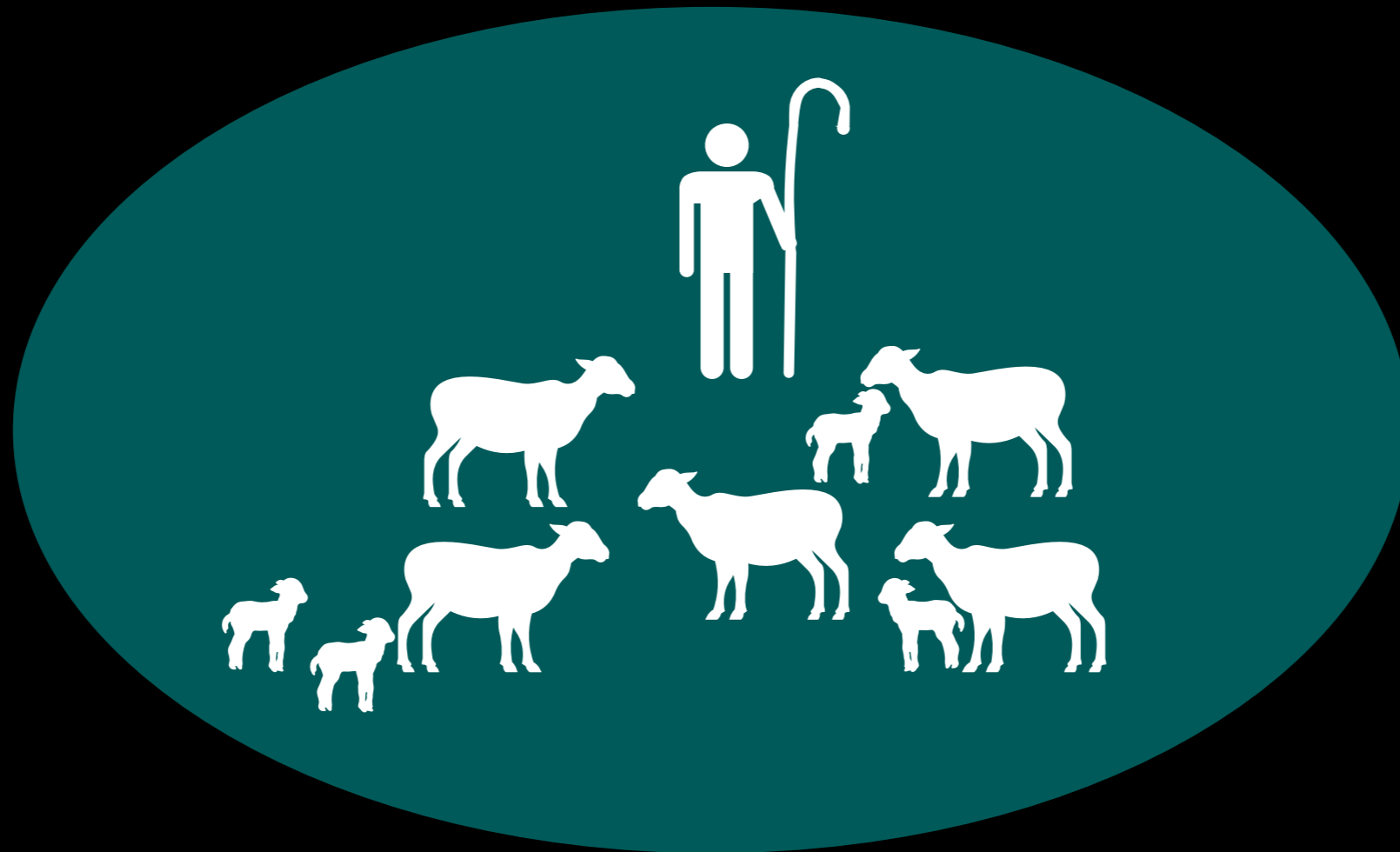
Evangelism (seekers class)
Basic Discipleship
Deeper Study



We want to coach leaders
(help them overcome inevitable
mistakes)



**We want everyone to grow up
into the fullness of Christ**



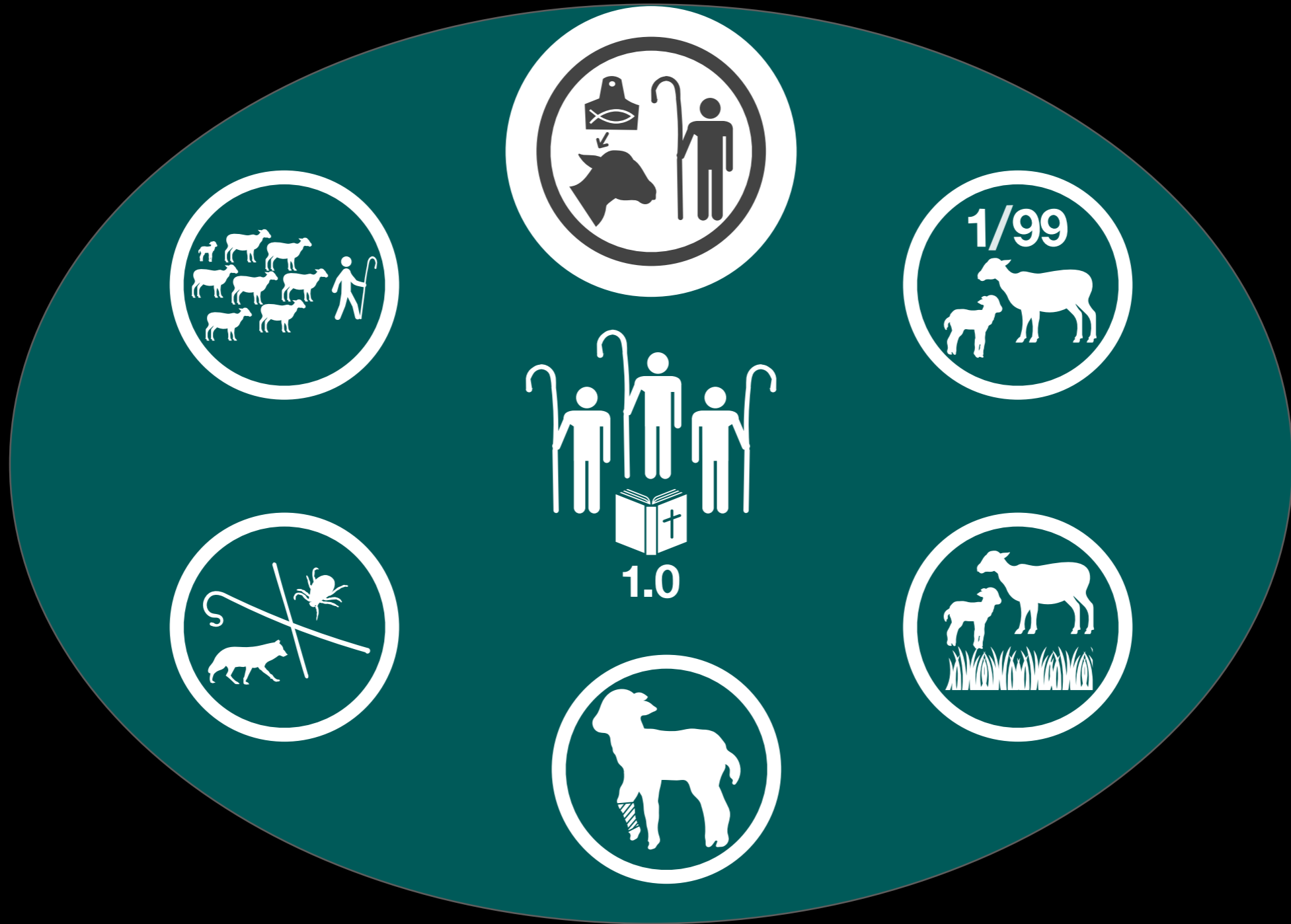
**...until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the
knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the
measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ...**

(Ephesians 4:13)

Saturday, October 13th
7-9am, 9:30-11:30am

Knowing the Flock

Basic Shepherding

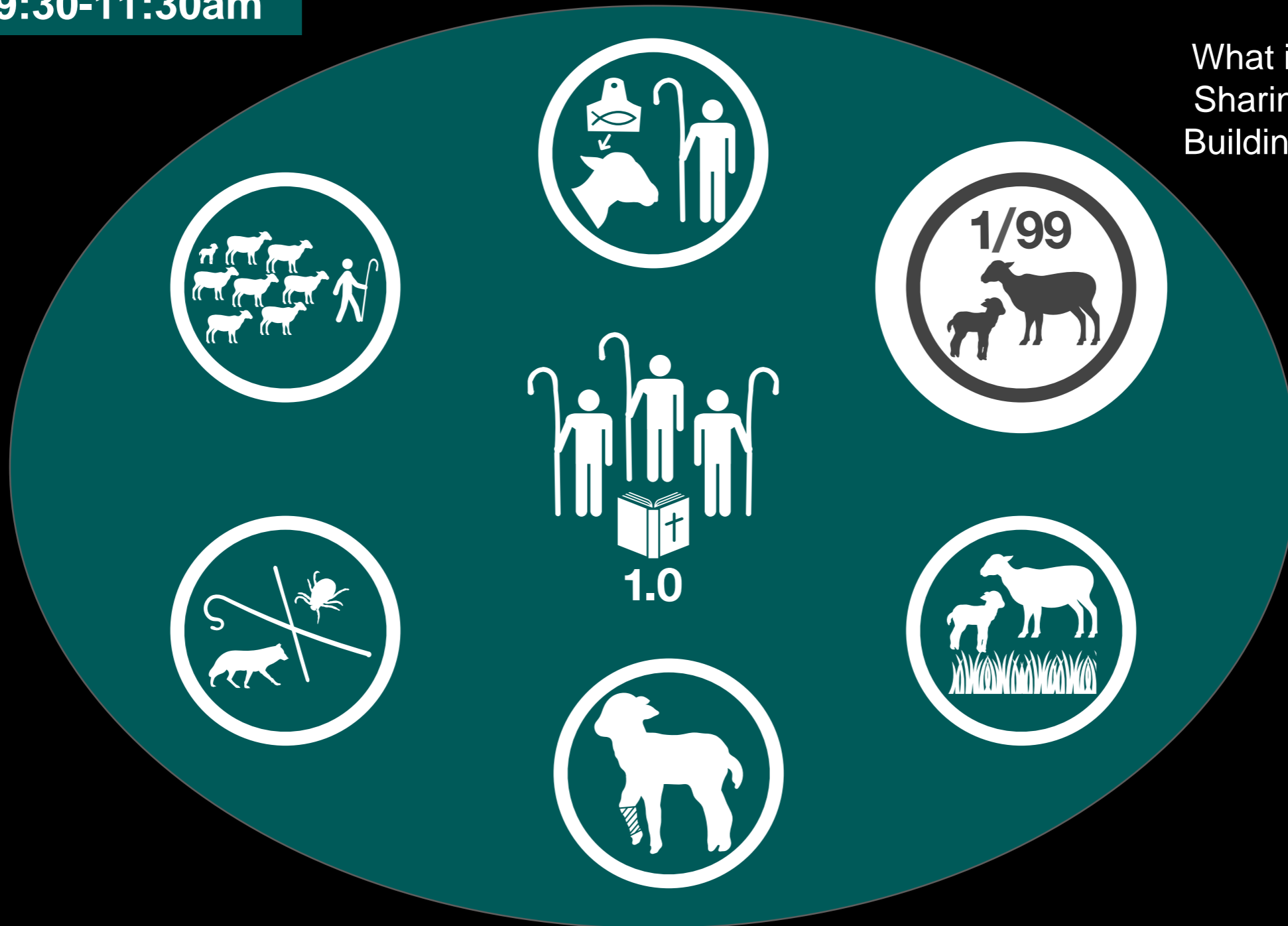


Growing and Maintaining the Flock (EV+)



Saturday, October 20th
7-9am, 9:30-11:30am

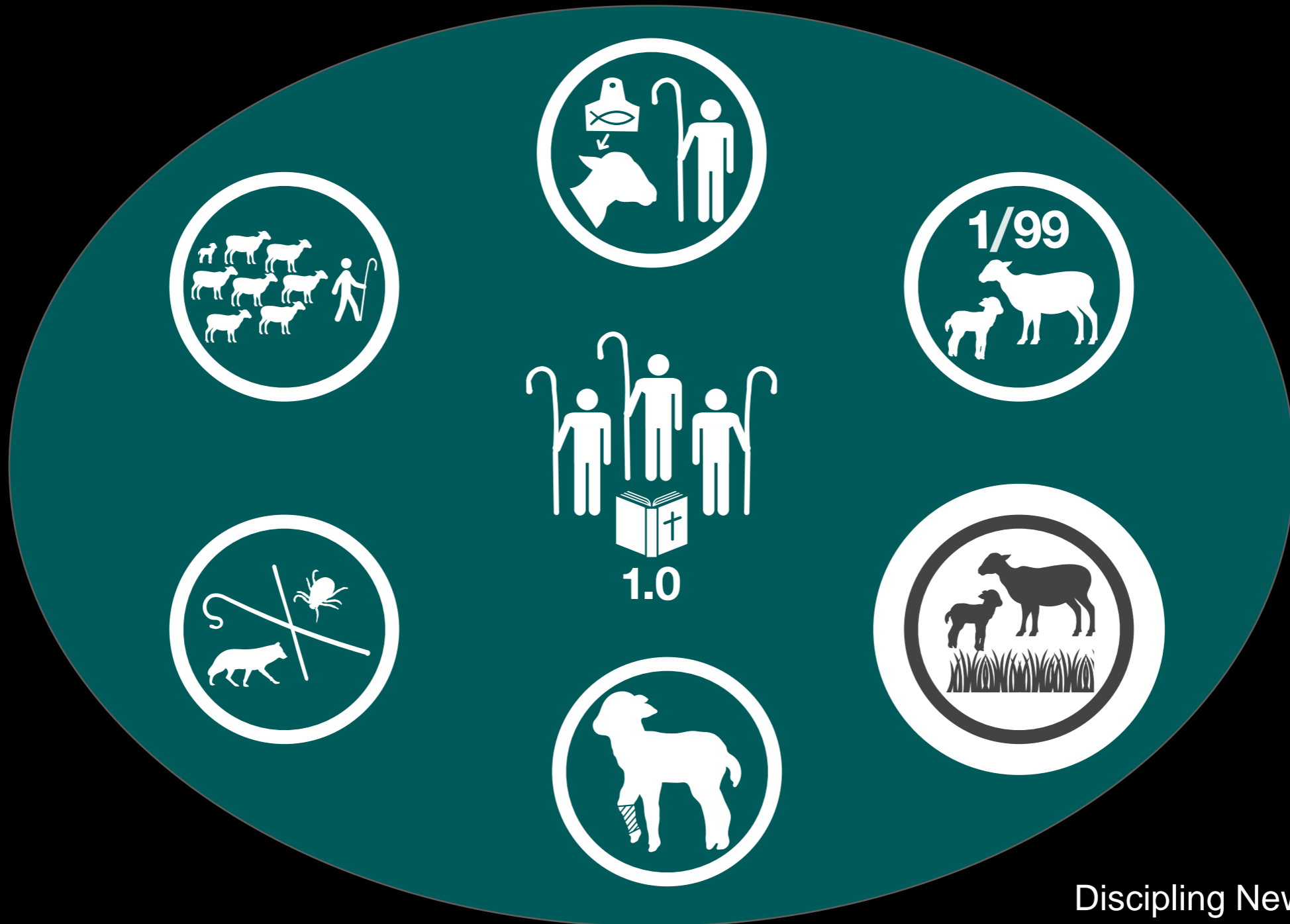
What is the Gospel
Sharing Your Faith
Building Community



Feeding the Lambs and Sheep (Discipleship)

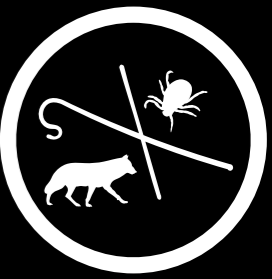


Saturday, November 3
7-9am, 9:30-11:30am

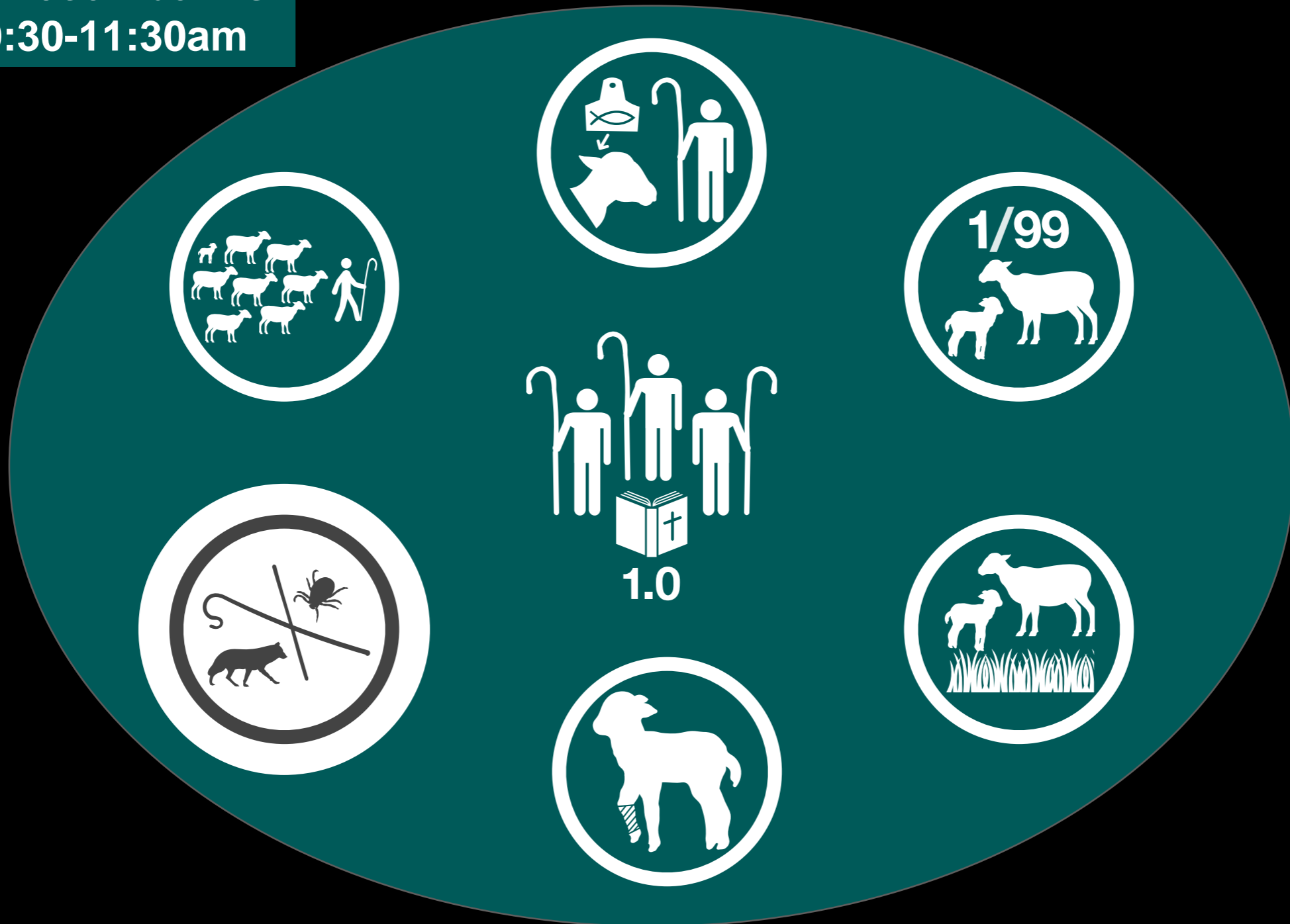


Discipling New Believers
Facilitating the Lesson
Properly Interpreting Scripture
Abiding in Christ

Protecting the Flock (internal and external)



Saturday, December 1st
7-9am, 9:30-11:30am



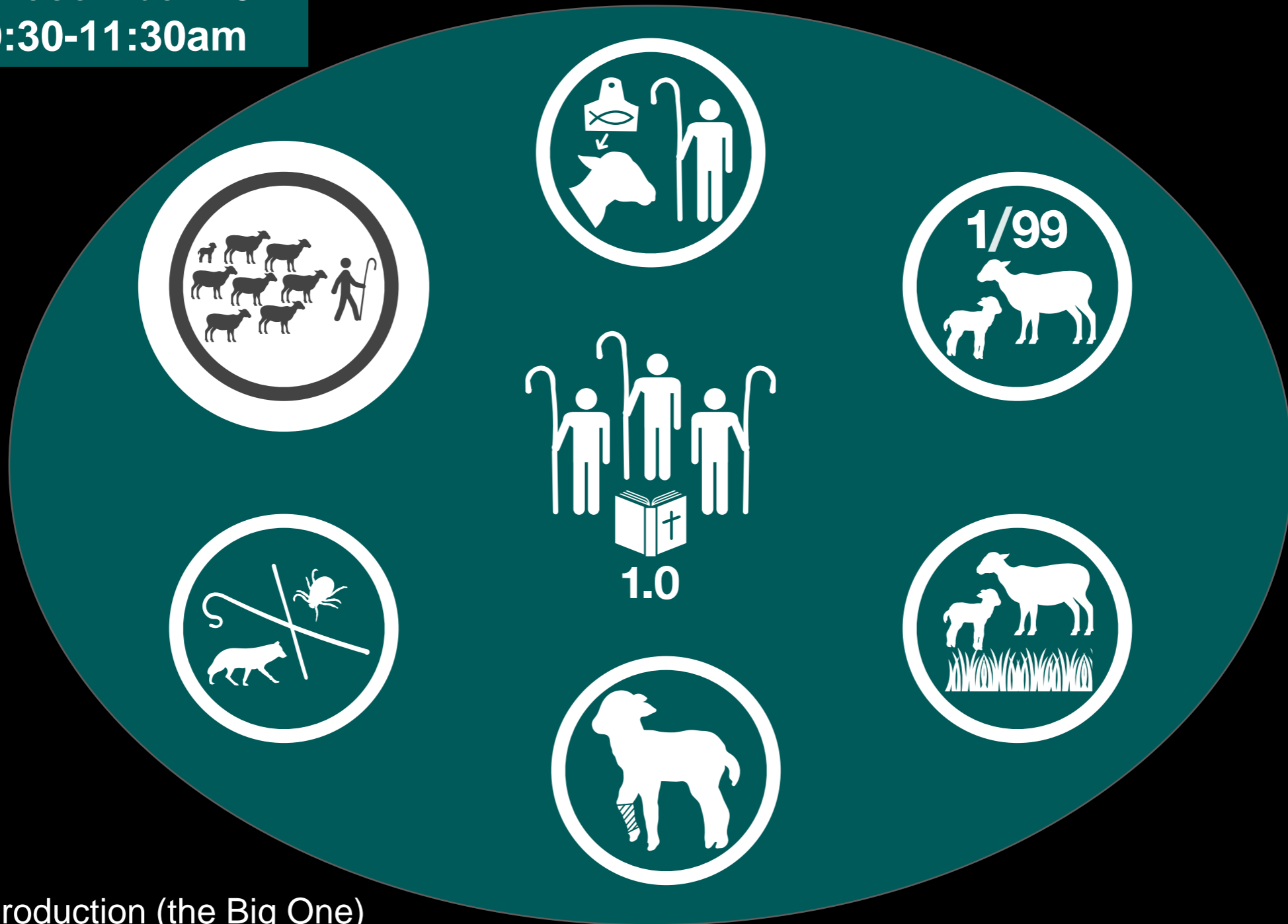
Managing Conflict

Identifying and Confronting False Teachers and Teaching

Leading and Mentoring the Flock



Saturday, December 15th
7-9am, 9:30-11:30am



Instilling Reproduction (the Big One)
Developing New Leaders
Character Development
Family Development

Let's pray

