Guided Prayer Time

1. Read Ezekiel 34:11-16.
    a. Take a few minutes in your group to identify actions or character qualities of God that you find especially praiseworthy.
    b. Spend time praying together adoring God and giving thanks for what you've identified in this passage.

In this section of Scripture, there are three broad categories of people toward whom God acts: the sheep in the fold, the scattered sheep, and the lost sheep.

2. Read Ezekiel 34:11-16 again looking especially for references to the sheep in the fold.
    a. Take a few minutes in your group to identify God's promised actions toward these sheep, that is, toward current believers who are in fellowship.
    b. Briefly discuss how God uses you and us as a church to fulfill these promises now.
    c. Spend time praying together, asking the Lord to fulfill these promises and asking Him to help you and us to be His instruments for this care to one another.
    d. Remember to keep this time focused on the work to be done in the church and among current believers.

3. Read Ezekiel 34:11-16 again looking especially for references to scattered sheep. These would be believers who are not connected in vital ways to the body or who are straying off into sinful life patterns. In other words, "at risk" sheep.
    a. Take a few minutes to identify how God promises to deal with these sheep.
    b. Briefly discuss how God uses you and us as a church to minister to scattered sheep.
    c. Spend time praying for scattered sheep around us. In your prayers, focus on what God says, asking Him to fulfill His promises and to help us to do our part.

4. Read Ezekiel 34:11-16 again looking especially for references to lost sheep. These would be those whom God has chosen but who have not yet believed.
    a. Take time to identify what God says about the lost.
    b. Spend time praying for the lost sheep in our community and in our circles of influence, asking God to fulfill His promises to them and asking Him to help you and us together to do our part in searching for them.

5. If time, specifically identify lost people in your circles of influence and take time to pray together for these people, asking especially for opportunities to share the gospel.