

## Study 6: Zechariah 11:4-17

### Icebreaker

Think of your best boss ever. What was good about them?

### Where are we headed?

We've been studying Zechariah's message for a people about to complete the temple. We move now into a later period, where things are again not looking so good for Jerusalem. The old problems of human sin and bad leadership are back.

### Prayer

Invite the group to pray with you and then read the passage together.

### Observation and interpretation

What are the two roles that Zechariah symbolically performs? Who does each role represent?

What is the consequence of rejecting God's leadership over Jerusalem?

Are the flock helpless *victims* at the hand of their leaders?

What do the two broken staffs represent?

Is 30 shekels of silver, in the context, a large or a small amount? See Exodus 21:32.

### Implications

Divide into groups and take one of these passages from the New Testament. How does Jesus' story fulfil the expectations in this passage?

- John 4:1-26
- John 10:1-18
- Matthew 26:14-16, 27:3-10.

What are the implications for our leadership

- a) in the church (whether as staff or volunteers),
- b) in business environments, and
- c) in politics?

**Prayer to close**

Pray for our leaders in all spheres of life, that we might have good shepherds.

This passage may refer to an unsuccessful attempt by Zechariah to reunite the Northern and Southern kingdoms under a common leadership (bringing God's kingdom back together would have been a long term dream). But by this time Samaria was quite happy with its independence, and so such a reunification would have been politically very difficult (hence the opposition between Samaritans and Judeans in Jesus' day). Hope for a reunified kingdom went out the window, postponed to a heavenly future. See John 4:19-26.