

Tips and Tricks:

The sermon notes are designed to be used as a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you have to use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through and others will be over in a few seconds.

Don't teach the lesson. The sermon was just preached. Just ask the questions and let everyone else talk.

Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!

Have fun. Don't forget to laugh and crack up. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our ministry. Remember: We have to build a relational bridge strong enough to hold the truth!

Agenda for Group Time

Ice Breaker - Lighthearted ice breaker question (10 minutes)

Discussion - Bible study, sharing and application. (25 Minutes)

Prayer - Pray together (5 minutes)

Planning - Remember to talk about what's coming up.

Icebreaker Were you the oldest, middle, or youngest child in the family? How much does birth order affect personality?

Read 1 Peter 5:1-5

The Elder's Task

What threats to being a faithful leader does Peter identify in verses 3 and 4?

Do these threats apply just to elders or to all leaders?

Are there specific threats that you have to watch out for in your roles of leadership? What does Peter's advice mean for someone in your position?

Think again about Peter's charge to those who hold the office of elder. The charge is on them, but the word of God is helpful for everyone. What kinds of things can the average church member learn from this charge?

Along the same lines, what do these passages teach us to do that can help elders in their work?

The Elder's Motivation

What provision is given for elders who faithfully endure? What does Peter mean by this?

It's not just elders, but all who serve in their place faithfully will receive reward in the life to come (1 Corinthians 3).

Question: what motivations do we carry with us in our lives that prevent us from faithfully serving?

What are some practices that allow us to focus more on Christ as we lead others?

The Elder's Character

The language of "shepherding" is an important one in the scriptures. It applies first to God but applies also to human leaders.

How does a shepherd's concern relate to eldership in regards to:

- Care for his people, just as they are?
- Care for dangers from outside?
- Keeping in mind a goal of leadership?
- Other: _____

Work It Out!

One thing I'll do differently because of this sermon:
