



THE SHEPHERD, THE SHEPHERDS, AND THE FLOCK • 1 PETER 5:1–5

In 1 Peter 5:1–5 we find a summary statement that speaks to the nature of, and relationships between, Christ, the elders of the church, and the people of God. In this exhortation to men who are called to lead, we also receive important instruction for the entire body, and our eyes are lifted to Jesus, the chief shepherd.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *Shaping Question: How does the heart of Christ shape the life, leadership, and work of his church today?*
2. Peter went from denying Jesus to being restored and recommissioned by Him. Where have you personally experienced Christ's mercy after failure, and how has that shaped your spiritual growth?
3. How does the picture of Jesus as the "Chief Shepherd"—one who knows, leads, protects, and feeds his people—shape the way you relate to Him personally? Where in your life do you most need to remember that He cares for you in these ways?
4. The New Testament consistently presents a plurality of elders rather than a single leader. How might a team of shepherds—rather than one—better reflect the heart of Christ toward His church? How does that shape your expectations or prayers for your own congregation and leaders?
5. Peter instructs the church to "be subject to the elders" and for everyone to "clothe yourselves with humility." What does humble participation in a local church look like in practical, everyday ways?