

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, September 13, 2009

Passage: 1Peter 5:1-4

Memory Passage: 1Peter 5:2-3

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1Peter 5:1.** Who were the elders and what did they do in the Old Testament (Ex. 19:7; Num 11:16; Josh. 20:4; Ruth 4:2-4)? Who were elders during the days of Jesus and what function did they play (Mt 16:21; 26:3; Acts 4:8, 23)?
- (b) What role did elders play in the early church (Acts 11:30; 15:1-35; 21:8)? The term used for elders in the New Testament is the same for “old man.” Does an elder have to be an “old man” in order to be an elder (1Tim. 4:11-5:2)?
- (c) Why does Peter identify himself as a “fellow elder” versus “an apostle” as he did in 1:1? Why would this be important in light of what Peter’s letter has been about? How does this instruct us in relating to other people with whom we claim authority over? What are the qualifications of an elder (1Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)?
- (d) *Family:* Read 1Peter 5:1. What does it mean to be an elder in the church? What are the qualifications of an elder (1Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)? Go through the lists and talk about what each one of these mean. Is it wrong to want to be an elder? What would be the danger in wanting to be an elder too much? How do these qualifications answer this concern? Pray for your elders today that they would be living examples of this list of qualifications.

DAY 2 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1Peter 5:1.** How was Peter a witness of the sufferings of Christ (Mt. 26:58; Jn. 18:10-11; 15-16; Acts 3:15; 10:39)? How had Peter shared in the sufferings of Christ (Acts 5:40; 12:1-5)?
- (b) What has Peter already said about this revelation of glory (1:5-8, 13, 21; 4:11, 13-14)? What is the revelation of glory? How is it that Peter is a partaker in this glory already (Acts 2:38-41; 5:1-11, Rom 9:22-23; 1Cor 10:31; 2Cor 3:18)?
- (c) *Think about it:* How are we to partake in the glory that is to be revealed? Are you partaking in that glory right now? What does that look like? Or what should that look like? What would be your perspective of yourself and others if you sought to partake in this glory instead of your own?
- (d) *Family:* Read 1Peter 5:1. What has Peter already talked about when he has referenced the revelation of glory? How has he already participated in this glory (Acts 2:38-41; 1Cor 10:31; 2Cor 3:18)? What is that will be revealed? Are you partaking in this glory? Why or why not? What does it look like to partake in your own glory? Pray that God would lead you to live for the future hope of His return and not immediate pleasures.

DAY 3 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1Peter 5:2.** Who were some of the great “shepherds” of the Old Testament besides David? Why would God use the comparison sheep and shepherd to talk about himself and his people? What are some of the functions that a shepherd must perform (Psalm 23)?
- (b) Why would the idea of being a shepherd of God’s flock be so personal to Peter (John 21:15-19)? From what you know of Peter would he be prone to lead them in such a way (Matt. 14:18-19; 16:16-18; 22-23; 17:4; 18:21; 19:27; 26:33)?
- (c) Read Ephesians 4:11-16. Paul is talking about various offices in the church and their role. One of which is the office of Pastor-Teacher. How does this passage describe the purpose of such an office? What should this office be mainly about?
- (d) *Family:* Read 1Peter 5:2 and John 21:15-19. What do you think it meant to Peter to shepherd God’s flock? Why would he be so intentional about mentioning this to these elders? How would a shepherd feel about his own lambs? What does this teach us about how we are to treat others? Whose flock is it? Pray that your elders would shepherd you and your church well.

DAY 4 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1Peter 5:2-3.** What are the three ways in which Peter instructs these elders not to exercise oversight? Why would it be so important to have an attitude of willingness? What kind of elder would be one that did not want to exercise oversight? What would be the dangers to a church if an elder only exercised oversight out of compulsion?
- (b) What could be the different ways in which a person could exercise oversight for his gain (Titus 1:7,11)? Why would it be so easy for an elder to seek after his own gain (1Tim 6:6-10)? Should an elder’s attitude not be concerned with money at all (1Tim. 3:5; 5:8, 17-18)?

(c) What is it like to have a domineering authority over you? Can you think of any examples? What is it like to have someone who is willing to lead by example? Again, can you think of an example? What kind of attitude does it take to be willing to lead by example (2Thess 3:6-12; 1Tim 1:16; 1Peter 2:21)? Why is it easier to follow this kind of leader?

(d) *Family*: Read 1Peter 5:2-3. What are three ways that these elders are not to oversee their flocks? What are the three ways that they should? What would it look like to oversee someone out of compulsion versus a willful heart? What about for shameful gain versus eagerness? What difference does it make when someone leads by example? Pray that the Lord would help you to lead by example with eagerness and willfulness.

DAY 5 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1Peter 5:4**. Why would it be important for churches to recognize that Jesus is the Chief Shepherd? How is Jesus prophesied about as the “True Shepherd” in Ezekiel 34:11-16? How is what is described is Jesus true?

(b) What is He doing as the “Great Shepherd” in Hebrews 13:20-21? What does this say about Jesus’ greatness? How is He described as the “Good Shepherd” in John 10:7-18? How is what is described is Jesus good? What do these four different titles alone tell us about Jesus?

(c) Is Peter speaking of the same crown as Paul does in 2Tim. 4:8 or James in 1:12 or John in Rev. 2:10? What does Paul call his crown in Phil. 4:1 and 1Thess 2:19 (Rev. 3:11)? Who is Peter talking to in verse 4? So, what does this crown of glory represent (Matt. 6:19-20)?

(d) *Family*: Read 1Peter 5:4 and John 10:7-18. What does it mean that Jesus is the Chief Shepherd? Why would this be important for these elders to remember? How does Jesus talk about Himself as the Good Shepherd? What does this mean for us? Praise God that He is the Good Chief Shepherd who watches over those who are His.

DAY 6 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) *Think back through what you have learned each day this week*. What did you learn this week? Do you pray for your elders regularly? What from this exhortation to the elders could you apply to your own life? Where is your hope; is it in your present circumstances or in the future hope of Christ’s return? If you were trying to be an elder, which of the qualifications discussed would you need to work on?

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The Joy of Serving Christ
“Shepherd the flock of God”