

- Sing one or two songs from morning worship (printed in bulletin, available at redeemerprestemple.org under the “Resources” tab)
- Read the Scripture passage
- Pray with a specific focus on people and situations in the group (spiritual growth, needs, encouragement, rejoicing)
- Pray for the truths discussed from the Scripture study to more deeply permeate our lives and empower us for service and mission together

Discussion Questions

1. Peter ended the passage immediately before chapter 5 saying, "Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good." What is the connection between entrusting our souls to God and entrusting ourselves to the care of the pastors and elders of the church?
2. Why has God given us elders?
3. What are examples of the misuse of spiritual authority in the church? How can spiritual authority be exercised in a way that is constructive rather than destructive?
4. What does the exercise of authority look like in the kingdom of God, and how does that differ from the exercise of authority in the world?
5. According to Peter, what is the primary way that elders are to lead those under their care (see verse 3)?
6. Hebrews 13:17 says, "Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you." How can you be a joy to those charged with the care of your soul? How will that be an advantage to you?

Announcements

- Pray for our friends and missionaries the Clows in Honduras

1 Peter 5:1-5

¹ So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: ² shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; ³ not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. ⁵ Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”