

Here are some talking points to start using to get your group talking to each other and to start generating meaningful conversations. Remember, you want others to do most of the talking.

Start Talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking. Which part of the message was most impactful to you and why?

Talking About the Message Start Sharing & NOTE: Pastor Ed may not cover all points in all services.

Setting/Open: Pastor Ed's Pastor, Jeff Johnson, passed away this past week. His life reflected his dedication to the gospel message for over 50 years. **Romans 1:16-17** We should appreciate and honor the spiritual leaders that God has put in our lives. This study is about serving and supporting our pastors.

1. Why is it so important to encourage and support our pastors? **A.** Because there are pastors who are discouraged and thinking about leaving the ministry. They have feelings of loneliness, are concerned about the impact of ministry on their families and don't feel respected by their congregations.
2. **THOSE WHO RULE OVER YOU: Hebrews 13:7 & 17** This is referring to those who rule over you spiritually. What does the word rule mean? **A.** to lead, go before, go first.

Two things to grasp:

- God chooses the leaders that He puts in our life. What is God's goal for the leaders that He puts in our lives? **A.** That they will shape & mold us into the people He wants us to be. **Jeremiah 3:15**
 - Ruling does NOT imply or require blind submission. The ruling is not absolute. What are spiritual leaders and what should they reflect? **A.** Leaders are "under-shepherds" who should reflect the heart of Jesus. **Mark 9:34-37**
3. **RESPECT & ESTEEM THEM HIGHLY: 1Thes 5:12-13 (NLT)** According to these verses, what are the things we are to do? **A.** Honor our leaders, show great respect, wholehearted love, and live peacefully with each other.
 - In v12, what does labor mean? **A.** working to fatigue and worn out with labor.
 - In v13, what does the work mean? **A.** the acts, deeds, service and work done continually.
 - What are the two extremes seen in the church regarding pastors? **A.** 1) Elevation of the leaders to the point of almost worship; 2) Pastors are ignored and disrespected. What is the correct approach? **A.** We serve and support those who God has ordained to shepherd our lives.
 - What two elements must be present in the relationship between leadership & the flock? **A.** Mutual trust and meaningful submission. We are to also accept, appreciate, respect and esteem them highly. **1Tim 5:17**
 - Why are leaders in the church a target of the devil? **A.** Get the leaders to fall and the flock will fall.
 - According to **2Cor 3:18**, what we should we be doing together? **A.** Being transformed into the image of Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - What part can each of us play to help our pastors? **A.** Consider how we treat our leaders and fellow believers in the church.
 - **Vital Application:** The best thing we can do as godly people is to be a humble servant of the KING.
 - In **Exodus 17:12-13**, what is our role regarding leaders in the church? **A.** Lift up their arms, and support them in ministry. "Hold up the pastor's arms, don't hang on them."

Start Praying & Start Doing. Check Prayer Requests, & pray.

Talk to your group about (1) creating profiles on the Calvary App so your group can create a group chat on the app. Let Pastor Josh know so he can set your group up for you. (2) Encourage your group to read ahead. (3) Please remember to fill out the LIFEgroup meeting assessment form after your meeting. Here is the link: <https://bit.ly/LIFEgroup-Assessment>

LIFEgroups
talk it over | week 3
discussion | study
Honoring Our Pastors

Hebrews 13:7, 17

Pastor Ed Taylor