

# THE TAKE AWAY

DISCUSSION GUIDE

**Sunday, July 25, 2021**

## **Message Summary**

In this week's message, Pastor John Carter talked about how the Lord acts as your Good Shepherd, but in His wisdom has called all of His sheep to follow the leadership of His assigned and appointed under-shepherds. These are people that He equips and anoints to care for His people while He is physically in Heaven. In John 21 when Jesus calls Peter to feed His sheep, it is clear that God calls certain individuals to lead, guide and care for His people. They are the pastors and ministers of the local church. These under-shepherds play a key role in the growth and the health of the flock of God. They are called to feed God's people the word of God, lead them into God's presence and teach them how to grow into mature believers.

## **Key Scriptures:**

- **[1 Peter 5:1-7 NKJV]** 1 The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: 2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; 3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; 4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. 5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to [your] elders. Yes, all of [you] be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.
- **[1 Timothy 2:1-2 NKJV]** 1 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, [and] giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

## **Discussion Questions:**

1. Why do you think God calls His people to follow the leadership of under-shepherds?
2. What is the role of the under-shepherds in the life of the sheep?
3. What is the responsibility of the sheep toward their under-shepherd?
4. Why is it so important to recognize, follow and honor the leadership God places in your life?

## **Life Application:**

This week as you study the key scriptures, consider what Pastor John said, "I have to be part of a flock that has a shepherd who takes seriously the responsibility of leading me, guiding me and feeding me." Just like the shepherd, you have responsibilities as a sheep, too. As a sheep, it is your responsibility to submit and honor to the under-shepherd that God has called you to follow. And part of that responsibility is to pray for your leaders. This week, pray for the shepherds and leaders whose job it is to feed you and lead you.