

Sunday Centerpoint

Key Takeaways:

1. The church exists to glorify God, build each other up, and make Jesus known - everything we do, including selecting leaders, should serve these purposes.
2. This is not just about selecting elders - it's about allowing God to work IN us individually to transform us to be more like Jesus as He works THROUGH us collectively to identify spiritual leaders.
3. We have a sacred responsibility - each member must commit to seeking God earnestly through Scripture, prayer, and possibly fasting so that the Holy Spirit can work through us in this process.

Discussion Questions:

1. Mark outlined three essential purposes for the church. Which of these resonates most with you and why? (Glorifying God in everything we do; Building each other up in unity; Making Jesus Christ known to others)
2. Mark described three vital components of shepherding. Which of these do you think is most challenging in today's church environment? Why? (Knowing the flock; Feeding the flock; Caring for the flock)
3. Looking at the growth chart showing the ratio of members to elders increasing from 34:1 to 82:1, what challenges and opportunities does this present for our congregation?
4. How does understanding that the Holy Spirit makes men overseers (Acts 20:28) change your perspective on the selection process?
5. Daniel emphasized that this is a "member-driven, Spirit-led process." What is the difference between: Us picking leaders based on personal preferences and the Holy Spirit working through us to identify leaders? How can we ensure we're doing the latter?
6. Daniel mentioned a heavy burden and responsibility on each member during this process. What concerns or questions do you have about participating fully in this process?

Practical Applications:

- Commit to using the 22-day personal study guide daily
- Set aside 10-15 minutes each day specifically to pray for the elder selection process
- Read through the qualifications for elders in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9
- Consider whether fasting (in whatever form is appropriate for you) might be part of your spiritual preparation
- Begin observing the men in our congregation with spiritual eyes - looking for those who already demonstrate shepherding qualities
- Ask God to remove any personal biases or preferences that might cloud spiritual discernment
- Pray for the current shepherds and the selection committee by name
- Prepare your heart to participate fully in each phase: education, nomination, and selection
- Consider having an accountability partner(s) for study, sharing insights, fasting.

