

EXILES - SHEPHERDED

SMALL GROUP NOTES 07/04/19

Martin Segal (Canterbury)

Tim Wilson (Whitstable)

SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 5: 1-5

SCRIPTURE CONTEXT

Peter turns his attention to the elders of the churches to whom he is writing. He wants to emphasise the significance of their role within God's flock, but also remind them specifically of the hope they have in Christ. Peter starts by exhorting them, to honour them and their role and to inspire others to walk into their calling. He describes what an elder's heart and character should be

QUESTIONS FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION

1. Peter calls the elders to 'shepherd the flock' in V2. What images come to mind when you picture a shepherd? How do you see the characteristics of shepherding outworked in church life?
2. Elders are to lead 'not for shameful gain' and in a way that is 'not domineering' (V2-3). What examples do we come across in the world around us when people do lead for their own gain and in a domineering way? Have we experienced leaders like this ourselves? If so, how has it affected your view of leadership?
3. Peter reminds the churches that Jesus is the 'chief Shepherd' in V4. How can we as a church be guilty of putting church elders on a pedestal and see them as chief shepherds instead of Jesus? Why is this so important to get right?
4. Peter calls the church to be subject to the elders in V5, pointing out those 'who are younger' as they were more likely to be headstrong and resistant to leadership. How can we grow in being those who humbly submit to our church elders? End the session by praying for our elders.