

# TALK IT OVER

## Not a Stranger...Hope in a World of Suffering

Week 4: *From Danger to Safety*  
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Icebreaker: Share about a time when you mistakenly hurt someone either physically or emotionally.

### From Danger to Safety

#### 1. Danger #1: Power

*1 Peter 5:1-5a NLT*

*1 And now, a word to you who are elders [leaders] in the churches. I, too, am an elder and a witness to the sufferings of Christ. And I, too, will share in his glory when he is revealed to the whole world. As a fellow elder, I appeal to you:*

*2 **Care** for the flock that God has entrusted to you. **Watch** over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but because you are **eager** to serve God.*

*3 **Don't Lord it [use unreasonable power] over the people** assigned to your care, but lead them by your own good example.*

*4 And when the Great Shepherd appears, you will receive a crown of never-ending glory and honor.*

*5 In the same way, you who are younger must accept the authority of the elders.*

How do we find safety?

**Safety: Loving Leadership**

#### 2. Danger #2: Pride

**Safety: Humility**

1 Peter 5:5b-6 And all of you, **DRESS YOURSELVES IN HUMILITY** as you relate to one another, for

“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, **AND AT THE RIGHT TIME HE WILL LIFT YOU UP IN HONOR.**

HUMILITY is knowing that we are both made in God’s image and capable of great loving actions *and* capable of great harm to ourselves and others.

1 Peter 5:5-6 In every relationship, each of you must wrap around yourself the **apron of a humble servant.** (Passion Translation)

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### **Danger #3: We Are The Answer**

#### **Safety: Pointing People To Jesus**

1 Peter 5:7 **Give all your worries and cares to God**, for he cares about you.

### **Danger #4: We’re Fine All The Time**

This leads to: UNDER ESTIMATING THE ENEMY

And we fall asleep: STAY ALERT

1 Peter 5:8-9a **STAY ALERT! WATCH OUT** for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.  
Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith.

#### **Safety: Be A Part Of The Family**

1 Peter 5:9b Remember that your **FAMILY OF BELIEVERS** all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are.

### **A FIRM PROMISE**

1 Peter 5:10-11 In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. **SO AFTER YOU HAVE SUFFERED A LITTLE WHILE, HE WILL RESTORE**, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation.

*All power to him forever! Amen.”*

### **Discussion Questions**

- ✓ **Where have you seen the love of power in your life?**
- ✓ **How have you learned how to lead through love?**
- ✓ **Why is humility harder for some than others? Which is your tendency, pride, or humility?**
- ✓ **Share about a time when you thought you had all the answers and found out that you did not.**
- ✓ **How can being a part of a ‘be real’ church family help us overcome the tendency to portray that we are ‘fine all the time?’**
- ✓ **What can you do to help our church be a safe place for the hurting?**