

## Connect Group Discussion Guide – 8/6/2023

### 1 Peter 5 The Life and Letters of Peter

**Video Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvR0S5fB8AzraGYts4eQfg> (Posted on Monday)

**Audio Only:** On Spotify or Apple Podcasts: Connection Point Podcast

**Opening discussion:** Talk about a time you've gone through a change in role.

#### Highlights

- **John 21:16** Peter is having his role changed. Jesus is saying, you've been a good fisherman, will you now tend to my sheep while I'm gone? I want you to pastor my people.
  - Peter's response, "Because I love you I will pastor your people."
- In 1 Peter 5, Peter is now addressing the leaders of the churches he is writing to.
  - Terms for leaders used in the Bible:
    - Elder – presbytos. Wise leader or old person!
    - Overseer (Bishop) – episkope
    - Pastor (Shepherd) - poimen
    - Deacon – diakonos. Takes care of the day to day operations
    - Apostle – apostolas
- **1 Peter 5:1-2** Don't just be wise leaders but be pastors/shepherds of the people, and also be an overseer. He includes all 3 leader types.
  - Be willing – response to my love for Christ. **Are you willing to shepherd others? Why or why not? What does it look like to shepherd others?**
  - Be examples – **We are all sheep!** Even as leaders we are still sheep. Allow yourself to be lead by the Chief Shepherd (Jesus). They/we are HIS lambs!
- **1 Peter 5:5** Submit – allow shepherds to pastor you. **What does that look like in your life? God opposes pride. Being prideful means you want to raise yourself to the status of God. Have you ever thought of pride this way? Does it change the way you think about humility and pride? How?**
- **1 Peter 5:6-7** "Cast..."
  - ...Nets – throw them up in the air and where they land they land
  - ...Anchor – very precise; dropping it in a very specific location
  - Casting our anxiety on Him is NOT "Lord do something. I'm begging you. Do your thing because you're God and I'm not.
  - It IS being very specific, "Lord, I am not handling this \_\_\_\_\_ well at all. I'm putting this specific thing into your hands and will trust you to take care of it in your way.
  - It's a different heart posture.
  - Anxiety and worry should not be prayed about haphazardly. We are called to give it directly to the Father. Why? Because He cares for you.
  - **Talk about the differences here. Give your own examples where you've done one vs. the other. What were the results?**
- **1 Peter 5:8-9** The first step for a hungry lion is to ISOLATE it's prey.
  - **You are not alone** – unless you choose to be alone.
  - You will not be devoured when you are in community with others. **Talk about how being part of this Connect Group has kept you from being devoured.**
    - You may get bitten, but you won't get devoured. We are not meant to do this alone.
- **1 Peter 5 10-11** God of all grace – He sees us and knows us and still loves us!!!! **What does that mean to you?**

- God alone restores us. We cannot do it for ourselves. We can't fix ourselves.
- **1 Peter 5:12** Peter was being a shepherd by example (see v.3): I'm not alone. I'm in community with Silas and Mark; I won't be devoured.
- **1 Peter 5:13** She – the church in Rome. Kiss of love – community, part of the family.

**Takeaways:**

1. To anyone leading someone spiritually, you don't HAVE to lead, you GET to lead with the wisdom of God. **Are you leading someone spiritually? Even someone in your family? Do you do so willingly?**
2. We must be humble enough to lead with maturity as well as be led. Shepherds are sheep too.
3. Choose to place (cast) the concerns of your life in the hands of Jesus. Pray specifically, not haphazardly. **What does this sound like, in your own words.**
4. Be a part of HIS church. You are not alone. We are His sheep. **Besides this Connect Group, where do you find community with other sheep?**