

# Shepherding the Church

September 12, 2021

**Scriptures:** 1 Peter 5; Acts 20:28-31; Hebrews 13:17

**Bottom Line:** God has given us the Church to shepherd our souls

## 1 Peter 5 - Shepherding the Church

### Elders

- Church leaders are to protect and direct the mission of the local church and its spiritual health
- Peter always refers to plural leaders, no one is leading alone, and he's talking to house church leaders

### 3 Ways Leaders Shepherd the Church

- **Care** for your church
- Be an example for and **encourage** your church
- Be on guard against the enemy and **protect** your church
- In addition, we are **all** to humbly put our trust in God

## How We Care for the Church

### We Care For Each Other By . . .

- Joining small communities of belonging
- Crossing generational divides

### We Encourage Each Other By . . .

- Using our gifts to serve each other
- Being kind with our words

### We Protect Each Other By . . .

- Refusing to listen to gossip
- Praying for our church

## Next Steps

1. Do something good for someone else who is suffering
2. Take communion with fellow believers to remember and strengthen your resolve

## LISTENING

Have someone in your group share something about their week. They could answer one of the following questions:

- What was a big challenge or problem you faced this week? How did you handle it?
- Where did you experience God this week? Or where do you wish you had experienced God this week?
- Based on your life experience this week, what do you think God is trying to teach you right now? What is He trying to build in you?

After the person shares, the group can respond. Make sure you let them know you heard them: tell them what you heard, offer wise advice where it's asked for, share from your own experience as well.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Review Sunday's message. What stood out to you? What challenged you? Are there any lingering questions?
2. What should look different between leadership in the world and in the Church?
3. How have you experienced the care and support of the local church?
4. Who and how has someone been an example for you in your relationship with Jesus?
5. How can your small group help you to give your worries & anxieties to God?