

Resilient Faith: A Study of 1 Peter

Group Guide | March 22

Open with Scripture and prayer (10 minutes).

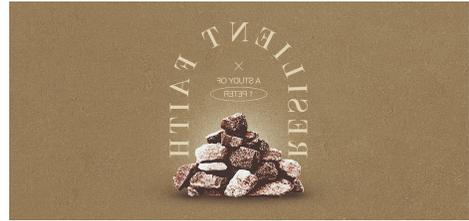
Begin your group time by reading 1 Peter 5:1-5. From this passage, take a few moments to pray around the following:

- Honor Christ as our Chief Shepherd
- Ask God for wisdom and guidance for our elders and church leaders
- Seek God's help in maintaining a consistently humble posture towards one another, including our leaders

When finished, transition to sermon discussion time.

Discuss the sermon (30 minutes).

1. What stood out to you most from Dan's sermon? What challenged you from this passage?
2. In verses 2-3, Peter lists several contrasts. What specific attitudes and behaviors is Peter commanding elders to avoid, and what positive alternatives does he give instead?
3. Peter calls elders to "be shepherds" of God's flock and refers to Jesus as the "Chief Shepherd" in verse 4. What does this shepherding imagery reveal about the nature of leadership in the church?
4. In his sermon Dan mentioned that elders need to have maturity in character, that we should see consistent faithfulness to Jesus "from a distance, as well as up close." What does that look like practically in everyday life (e.g., at home, work, online)? Share one area where you feel you're growing in this kind of visible consistency and one where you still struggle.
5. Dan also noted that mature-in-faith people have moved beyond "basic doctrines" and can now guide others. Where are you personally on that journey—from "still wet from the baptistry" to being able to help guide



someone else? Who has been a mature guide in your faith, and what made their influence effective?

6. Peter calls elders to "be shepherds" who are up close, relational, protective, nourishing, and unifying—contrasting this with worldly models like CEO (executive/distant), foreman (bossy/directive), cruise director (entertaining), or babysitter (hyper-intensive but limited). Which of those non-biblical images most often comes to mind when you think of "leadership" in the church or world today? Why do you think the shepherd model feels so different—and sometimes harder?

7. Towards the end of the sermon, Dan gave us the five responsibilities of an elder: (1) Protection; (2) Preaching; (3) Policy; (4) Prayer; and (5) Pastoral Care. Which of these surprised you most? Which felt most natural for a church leader to be doing in your mind? Which are you most grateful for? Why?

8. The passage ends with the command for everyone to "clothe yourselves with humility toward one another" and the quotation, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble" (quoting Proverbs 3:34). What does it mean practically to "clothe yourselves with humility," and how does this attitude resolve potential tensions between leaders and the congregation in the church?

9. Read Hebrews 13:17. How does this passage relate to what Peter is talking about regarding church leadership? Would you say that you joyfully "submit" to church leadership? Explain.

If applicable, reflect on the 90-Day Bible Reading Plan (10 minutes).

- What was your time reading the New Testament and Psalms like for you this week?
- What is something you learned?
- What stood out or challenged you from God's Word?



Finish with prayer (10 minutes).

As you finish, break out into groups of 2-3. Share what's is going on in your life – any wins, any struggles. Then, pray out loud over one another in your smaller groups.