

Home Group Discussion Questions

26th February 2017

Read: 1 Peter 5: 1-7

Today's passage ends this series on *God our Shepherd*. Leadership in the Christian community is here described in shepherd imagery.

1. The challenge to the elders is to 'be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care'. What are the implications of a Christian community being **God's** flock? (compare 1 Peter 2: 25)
2. Looking in particular at 1 Peter 5:1, what are the key past experiences and values that Peter brings to this issue of pastoral care?
3. In v.2-3 Peter sets a 'tone' for pastoral care. What are the things that make up this 'tone' (i.e. what attitudes are essential to pastoral care?)
4. Compassionate care is not just the calling of certain leaders but all God's People. In our workplace, leisure places and our social interaction how do we go about setting a tone that is honouring to the Chief Shepherd?
5. Central to Peter's concern is guarding against the misuse of **money** ('dishonest gain', v.2) and **power** ('lording it over', v.3). In our context which is the greater of the two dangers and why?
6. We talk a lot about *servant* leadership ('eager to serve', v.2); sometimes as if talking about it makes it happen! What does it actually look like in practice in our setting?
7. What do you think (v.4) is the 'crown of glory that will never fade away' given to those who serve well? If leaders are to look for affirmation in the life to come, rather than in this life, how should we treat them now?
8. The passage ends in a very God-centred way (v.5-7). What are the hall-marks here of a truly God centred community?