

July 7 – 13

Chosen and Exiled | Shepherd the Flock

Icebreaker: Think of the best leader you have ever served under. What made them a good leader?

Read 1 Peter 5:1–5

SOAP Discussion (Details on the SOAP Method at www.cfdowningtown.com/soap)

Further Discussion

5:1

- What do we learn about the leadership structure of the churches scattered throughout the Roman Empire?
- What do we learn about how Peter views his own leadership?
- What was the source of his authority?

5:2–4

- Consider what a shepherd does for a flock of sheep. How does that speak to what an elder does for the people of a church?
- What is the goal of exercising oversight of a church?
- Consider the three pairs of motivations for leadership: (1) Compulsion vs. willing service, (2) Shameful gain vs. eagerness to serve, and (3) domineering vs being an example.
 - What is the source of these competing motivations?
 - How would you determine the motivations of a potential leader?
- According to verse 4, what is Jesus' role in church leadership?
- What do we learn about elder leadership of the church in Titus 1:5–9 and 1 Timothy 5:17–18?

5:5

- What does it mean to be subject to the authority of elders?
- What does a person look like who clothes themselves with humility?
- Why must God oppose the proud? If left unchecked, what would they become?
- Why is humility a prerequisite for the grace of God?

Application

- What would happen to a church that lacks good spiritual leadership?
- What would happen to a church where people fail to follow spiritual leadership?
- How can you support the pastors and elders of this church?

For Next Week: Use SOAP with one verse in 1 Peter 5:6–13