



December 13th, 2009
Sermon Based Studies

Group member guide

“Surviving Life” #17
I Peter 5:1-4

Text: I Peter 5: 1-4 : “So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: ² shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; ³ not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.” (ESV)

Getting to know me

1. What kind of leadership positions have you been in? What was required of you as a leader?
2. Who do you think was the best president of the U.S. and why?

Into the Bible

1. Peter calls himself a “fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ.” What kind of witness was he when Christ was suffering? Read Luke 22:54-62 and John 21:15-17. What does this say about the background of an elder’s life?
2. Leadership or serving in any ministry position in the church is to be done willingly. What happens when people serve out of a sense of compulsion?

3. What does it mean for elders to “exercise oversight?” How can they give direction and not be consumed with “micromanagement?”

4. Use the following passages to find legitimate reasons for accepting a leadership or any ministry position.
Luke 5:10-11; 5:27-28; Romans 12:3-8; I Cor. 12:7; Eph. 4:7; I Peter 4:10; I Tim. 3:1

5. “Shameful gain” does not mean that some elders/shepherds/pastors should not make their living by this means. Check what Paul says in I Timothy 5:17-18. What is the difference between “shameful gain” and “the worker deserves his wages?”

6. Power is the second of two idols of worship (money being the first listed here). What is the antidote for this attitude? Look at I Tim. 3:2-3; 4:12; II Cor. 4:1-5; Matt. 20:26-28

Application Questions

1. Have you ever felt pressured to serve in a position or ministry in the church when you were not really willing? What would you say was the reason for your unwillingness? Is there a difference between having an unwilling attitude and being sincerely challenged to step outside of your comfort zone?

2. How can the church prepare people for ministry so that they can serve willingly rather than by compulsion?

3. If we are not to be motivated in ministry by “shameful gain” (whether that is financial or just pride over size, numbers, influence) what should be the motivators for our service?

4. Financial compensation for pastors, missionaries, and other ministry leaders can be a sensitive subject. What would you say is a good standard to be guided by?

5. Peter says to lead by example. What is the example that you need to see?