

PCC

2.14.21

Catch Up

Spend some time catching up as a group. Use the following questions as a guide:

- 1. What was the best part of your week? What was the worst part? What do you think God is teaching you in this season of life?**

Before diving in to the main discussion, spend some time in prayer together as a group. Pray for each other, and for the discussion ahead.

Now transition to the main discussion by answering these questions:

- 2. Thinking back on Sunday's teaching, what specifically encouraged or challenged you?**

Dive In

Read 1 Timothy 5:17–25 and discuss the following questions:

- 3. What stands out to you in this passage? If you were tasked with explaining these verses to an unchurched person, how would you do it?**
- 4. What do you think are the most difficult aspects of being a church leader? When is it hardest for you to honor authority in your life? What does it look like to do so? Do you tend to look to church leaders and pastors more for reassurance, or redirection?**
 - We have all been hurt in the church and we have all caused hurt in the church, church leaders included. As family, the church's goal is to live beyond the hurt, push past the painful moments and give grace each other.*
- 5. How do these biblical standards for elders challenge you in your own walk with the Lord? In other words, what should non-church leaders take away and apply from these verses? What role does accountability play in your own life today?**
 - The undercurrent throughout this letter is unblemished Christian witness. This maintains its strength through pure doctrine and pure living.*
 - Everyone will realize the fruit of their life's efforts, whether good or ill, and whether now or later. Paul understood the human heart, so he warned Timothy that the sins of others trail behind them. These were people practiced in duplicitous living, who faked spirituality on the outside while a life of sin persisted within. That is why caution and patience are needed in appointing people to ministry.*

Now read John 10:11-21 and talk about these questions:

- 6. What stands out to you from this passage? How would you put Jesus' main point in your own words?**
- 7. How might viewing Christ as your Shepherd give you confidence to walk through "the darkest valley"? How do you need Jesus to "shepherd" you at this moment in your life?**
 - *When a shepherd took care of his sheep by feeding and watering them, he strengthened them for the journey to the next pasture. God often refreshes us by providing for our needs not only as individuals, but also as the entire flock. But following God's leading is not always easy or comfortable. It is comforting to know God's hand and presence never leave us, so the flock of God can be free of fear.*
- 8. What are some expectations you tend to put on pastors and church leaders that only Jesus can live up to? After reflecting on this sermon and study, what are some expectations you should put on pastors and church leaders?**
 - *The good shepherd is the one who loves the sheep enough to lay down his life for them. That's how we know that Jesus is the good shepherd. And because we are certain He is good, we can, as His flock, trust Him to lead us in the right way. The flock hears the voice of Jesus through the Word of God as well as through the spiritual leadership of their pastors as they represent Jesus.*

Respond

Spend some time reflecting on what you can apply from both this teaching and this discussion in your own life. Use these questions as a guide:

- 9. How do you believe God is prompting you to respond to this teaching? What's one thing you can put into practice this week to walk in obedience to God? What's one challenge or barrier preventing you from walking in obedience?**

End your time by sharing prayer requests, encouraging one another, and by praying for each other, our church, city, nation, and world.