# Digging Deeper- Discussion for Family Worship and Small Groups 02/20/2022

A Study of 1 Peter: “Following Jesus Through a Foreign Land”

**Sermon Title:** “Commitments: Pastoring Faithfully”

**Passage:** 1 Peter 5:1-5

**Context:** Peter is writing to scattered, suffering Christians facing increased persecution. They need encouragement and instruction as they live out their earthly pilgrimage in a hostile environment. The remainder of the letter focuses on the theme of suffering-mainly from hostile people. Peter knows that the Christian church needs faithful men to serve as elders/pastors who are designed by Christ to shepherd his people.

**Main Idea:** *“Churches need faithful elders who have committed their lives to serve Christ by shepherding his people.”*

**Main Points:**

I. The office and distinction of an elder was designed for the good of Christ’s church. (1 Peter 5:1)

Ref. Acts 20:28; Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 5:17; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 2:12, 3:1

II. The function and motive of an elder must be Christlike in nature. (1 Peter 5:2)

A. Feed the sheep (John 21:15-17)

B. Protect the flock (1 Peter 5:2)

C. Model Christ (1 Peter 5:3)

D. Guard against laziness (1 Peter 5:2)

E. Guard against dishonesty and greed (1 Peter 5:2)

F. Guard against becoming power hungry or arrogant (1 Peter 5:3; Matthew 20:25-28)

III. The reward for faithfully serving as an elder will be given out by Christ himself. (1 Peter 5:4)

Ref. 1 Timothy 4:6-8

IV. The responsibility of the church is to respect and follow faithful elders. (1 Peter 5:5)

Ref. Hebrews 13:17

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What did you learn about God’s attributes and promises?
2. What challenges you about the message?
3. Were you convicted of any specific sin in your life? Through God’s grace and the power of His Spirit, how will you deal with this sin?
4. What does this Scripture require of me?
5. How will you practically implement these truths?
6. What in this passage points to our need for Jesus?