

Growth Groups Lesson

January 15-16

1 Peter 5:1-11

Big Idea: We are all called to willingly submit to authority, which can be very hard at times. Learning to follow our leaders involves genuinely submitting to God and humbling our hearts before Him.

In the book of 1 Peter, we find three main sections: salvation (1:3–2:10), submission (2:11–3:12), and suffering (3:13–5:11). Each of these sections was written to encourage believers to remain strong in faith.

Spend some time praying with your group and asking for help in seeing and applying His Word. Review and reflect on the prayer requests given the previous week. Give the Lord praise for the answers to your group's prayers.

Read 5:1-4

Shepherds are responsible for feeding, protecting, and procuring rest for their flock. Peter exhorts the elders to “shepherd the flock of God.” They provide primary leadership and oversight of a church by shepherding, leading, and caring for the local church.

1. What instructions did Peter give to the elders in verses 2 and 3?
2. Read the qualifications for an elder listed in **1 Timothy 3:1-7** and **Titus 1:5-9**. Summarize the character traits of an elder. Why are these character standards high for the elders of the local church?
3. Not all of us will be elders, but the character requirements are something we should all aspire to. How are you working toward those character traits in your life right now?
4. What would it look like for you to submit to authority this week?
5. What steps can you take to better know GSCC's elders?

Read 5:5-7

Peter tells the church members to submit to the elders and calls for everyone to be humble, “under the mighty hand of God.”

6. Read **Psalms 138:6, Proverbs, 3:34, Proverbs 29:23, Matthew 23:12, Luke 1:52, James 4:6,** and **1 Peter 5:5**. How does God contrast the humble from the proud?
7. Why is humility in a church context so important?
8. What does your own humility look like in your day to day life?
9. How does humility help in casting our anxieties onto God? **Verse 7, Matt. 6:25-34**
10. What anxieties are you humbly casting on Him this week?

Read 5:8-10

Peter says to be watchful as the devil prowls around looking for someone to devour.

11. He says to resist the devil by “standing firm in your faith.” What are the steps you can take to be firm in your faith? **Eph. 6:10-18**
12. Peter mentions throughout the letter you will suffer for being a Jesus follower. Read the following verses from **1 Peter 1:3-9, 3:13-17, 4:12-19**. List how you should respond to suffering.
13. How has being part of a family of believers made a difference in times of trouble in your life?

End the evening by praying for your neighbors.

14. What is one way you can humbly serve one of your neighbors this week?
15. How can your group support you in doing that?