

Leading The Church Forward

Leader's Guide for Week Four

What Do Elders Do?

Acts 20:17-35, Hebrews 13:7-17, 1Tim 5:17-20, James 5:14

Note: Please read the Scripture passages and watch the video on your own first and try to answer the questions. This will help you fine-tune things and draw good answers out of the group when you view it again with them.

Open with Prayer

Note: if your group would benefit from an icebreaker-type question consider using question 2 as a start.

Video

Questions

1. In Acts 20:29, the Apostle Paul prophesied that the congregation will be attacked by “savage wolves”. In verse 30 he warns that the attack will be internal as well as external. In verse 31 he encourages vigilance to protect the congregation:
 - a. What can we do as individuals to remain vigilant?
 - b. How can a church’s governance structure protect the congregation from wayward leaders?
2. 1 Peter 5:2-3 encourages elders to lead by example. Share a time when someone’s example caused you to stop sinning or to engage in some good work.
3. The context of “double honor” in 1Timothy 5:17 appears to be financial. However, what are other ways a congregation might honor its elders?

4. Pastor Paul said the elders pray for and with the congregation. How do you communicate the needs you have for prayer to others in the church? How do you let the pastors know?

Note: If people are not familiar with contacting their Care Ministry Partner or the online prayer portal, please point them out.

Q&A -

Note: (Please write down the questions people ask so that the leadership can get a feel for what people are wondering about and get them to Pastor Paul. If there are any you are unsure how to answer, he can also help with those.)