

CARING FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

AUGUST 1 | 1 PETER 5:1-5

DISCUSSING GOD'S WORD

1. Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7, and discuss how these qualifications compare to Peter's instructions for elders in 1 Peter 5.
2. What does the metaphor of shepherding teach us about how elders are supposed to think and act?
3. What does this metaphor teach us about God when it refers to Jesus as the "Chief Shepherd"?

APPLYING GOD'S WORD

1. According to verse 5, how are we supposed to interact with the elders in the church? What do you think that means?
2. What are some of the ways you could pray for and support the elders at Providence?
3. Talk about why you think God provided elders for the church. What was his purpose in this, and what does it teach us about him?

PRAYING GOD'S WORD

1. Thank God for providing the church with elders who are charged to shepherd the flock.
2. Pray for the elders at Providence as they strive to fulfill their calling among us.
3. Pray that God would protect the relationship between the people of Providence and the elders. Pray for trust and humility on both sides.