

The Functions and Qualities of Elders, (Part 4)

Discussion Guide

Text: 1 Peter 5:1-14

OPEN:

1. Were you the youngest, middle or oldest child in your family? How did the family "pecking order" affect your personality?
2. What is one of the most unruly groups you have had to shepherd: Jr. high kids on a field trip? The church nursery? A small group that wouldn't cooperate? A meeting of competitive professionals _____?

DIG:

1. Who is someone in your life who has "taken you under their wing" and helped you along the way?
2. What is Peter warning church leaders about (vv. 2-3)? What guidelines does this passage provide for those in Christian leadership?
3. How are Christians to deal with stress, tension and hassles (vs. 6-7)? In what way does the promise in verse 10 give you encouragement?
4. In this passage, who is identified as the enemy? What are we told about this enemy? How are we to guard against this enemy?

REFLECT:

1. What leadership responsibilities do you have? (We all have some!) How do you score on Peter's leadership test? How can you improve your score?
2. What specific anxiety or concern do you need to cast humbly on the Lord? What gets in your way?

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