

<sup>1</sup> So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: <sup>2</sup> shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; <sup>3</sup> not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. <sup>4</sup> And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

### APPLICATION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*Read the passage again together as you get started. Make sure you are looking into the Bible itself so that your observations, interpretations, and applications are from the text. Remember, the questions below are meant to be a tool to help get into God's Word but don't feel bound to them or make getting through them a concern.*

1. What is one observation (not interpretation or application yet) you notice when reading this passage? For instance, do you notice any key words, repetition or parallels, vivid descriptions, connecting thoughts, mentions of God, or important themes?
2. According to this passage, what is the responsibility that elders have? What is the way in which elders are to carry out this responsibility?
3. Thinking through this passage and other passages of Scripture, how are elders to know who they are called to shepherd? Why is it important for elders to know who is in their care?
4. Peter calls elders to shepherd the flock willingly and without compulsion (v. 2). Why is this important for elders to remember? What are some reasons that elders would shepherd under compulsion and how can they avoid these reasons?
5. According to this passage, what should motivate elders to shepherd the flock of God?
6. What are some ways that this passage applies to those who are *not* elders?
7. What characteristics are true of a person who is eager to be shepherded? How can we cultivate those characteristics in our daily lives?

8. Peter says that elders serve as an example to the flock (v. 3). What are some ways that you have seen elders serving as faithful examples? How can you faithfully follow their example?
  9. How does the promise of “the unfading crown of glory” help elders as they seek to shepherd their flock? How does this promise help us in our daily lives?
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## QUESTIONS FOR KIDS

*For those of you who are parents or have young children in your life, here are a couple of questions to ask them as you read the Bible together. You can also use the “Kid’s notes” that will be available each Sunday as another tool to encourage our children in their growth and discipleship through the Word.*

1. What are things that shepherds do for sheep? How does this help us think through what elders do as they shepherd the church?
  2. Why is it important to obey God willingly and eagerly rather than being forced to obey?
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## RESPONSE

*Here are some possible ways to apply and obey what we’ve seen in God’s Word this week. It is important that we be doers of the Word and not hearers only, so whether you use these or not please obey what God puts on your heart through the reading, preaching, and discussing of God’s Word.*

Think about ways that you can encourage one of your elders as they seek to shepherd the church. This could look like:

- a. Joining the church in membership.
- b. Sending an email to an elder listed on the website.
- c. Stopping an elder in the hallway and expressing gratitude.

This next week, pray for the elders who are shepherding the flock. Thank God for their ministry and ask God to provide what they need to shepherd the flock well.