

Living Hope
Week 14 – Marks of Biblical Leadership

Transition: In last week's text, Peter gave the Christians in Asia Minor five tactics to help them navigate through their suffering for Jesus. Expecting trials, rejoicing in trials, avoiding irresponsible suffering, wearing the name Christian as a badge of honor, and entrusting their lives to God, would help them navigate well through the wilderness of suffering for Christ.

Check Point: Would anyone like to share something they worked on from last week's discussion?

Context: In this week's text, Peter shifts gears from the topic of suffering and addresses the type of leaders God has called to lead his church, and how they are to lead.

Opening Questions:

- What kind of church leadership structures are you familiar with?
- What leadership roles have you held (church or non-church related) and what was challenging to you about it?

Scripture/Storying: 1 Peter 5:1-5

Discipleship Questions:

- What is the Holy Spirit teaching you through this story? How does it impact the way you think and live?
- What advantages do you see with a plurality of elders leading a church?
- Whose flock do the elders shepherd? Why do you feel it's important for elders and members to remember that Jesus is the Chief Shepherd of the church? What happens when this is forgotten? How can a church keep focus on Jesus as the Chief Shepherd?
- What differences are noticeable to you in a leader who leads under *compulsion* (because they feel forced), and one who leads *willingly*? Which type of leader would you rather be under, and why?
- How would leading for shameful gain and in a domineering fashion hurt the suffering church Peter was writing to? How have you seen this hurt the church today? How have you seen this type of leadership impact other kinds of contexts outside the church?
- How can prideful leadership and prideful members impact the church? How does humble leadership and humble membership impact the health of the body? Why is humility necessary for one to submit to the leadership of the church elders?
- Why do you feel praying for the elders that lead Providence Church is crucial? How will you begin praying for the elders that lead Providence?
- How might these church leadership principles be beneficial in your home or work? How can you be a better example to the people you lead?

Prayer time: - Pray for the Zimbabwe Mission trip team as they adjust to being back in the States. May the Lord bring them rest and refuel them for His glory. Pray for those who were trained in Zimbabwe, that they may integrate relational discipleship into every part of their day-to-day lives!