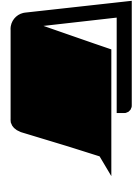


this *exile* life



A SERIES IN 1 PETER

Sunday, May 2, 2021 | Wawasee Community Bible Church | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

Part 16 | **God's Way to Lead**

1 Peter 5:1-5

¹ 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: ² 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; ³ not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. ⁵ Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

Think like a **SHEPHERD**,

v. 1-2

elder, overseer, pastor

v. 1; 1 Timothy 5:17

protect, provide, guide

v. 2; John 10:11-13; Psalm 23

who **LOVES** their sheep

v. 2-3

lead willingly

v. 2b; Philemon 14; 2 Corinthians 9:7

“what can I *give*”, not “what can I *get*”

v. 2c; 1 Timothy 3:8; Titus 1:7

lead by example

v. 3; Luke 6:39-40; James 3:1

and knows they're a **SHEEP** themselves.

v. 4-5

Jesus is the Chief Shepherd

v. 4; John 10:11-13

humility = *know your place*

v. 5; Proverbs 3:34



What is this? – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, and live life together. We call them Life Groups. The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a parallel passage of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on the Connect Card in your bulletin.

Getting to Know You

Getting to Know You: Use this guide

for your personal and group study this week. Part of our goal together is getting to know one another. *Who is the best leader you've ever been around? What did they do that makes you think of them?*

* This week's Study Guide is adapted from a discussion guide by North Coast Church in Vista, CA. North Coast is a sister church of Wawasee Bible, part of the EFCA.

Getting Started

Review your message notes. What stood out to you from the message this week? Do you have questions? Disagreements? Discuss it with your group.

Digging Deeper

1. Thinking like a shepherd means we're willing to put other people before ourselves. In **3 John 1:9**, a church leader named Diotrephes is identified as someone who "*loves to be first*." Jesus gave us a completely different example of what it means to be a leader and a person of influence. Read the following verses and write down what you find most challenging about the attitude expressed in them?

Mark 9:35

Mark 10:43-44

Luke 22:26

2. Take a moment and evaluate the various environments where you may have leadership or influence (work, school, home, church, friendships). In which of these environments do you find Diotrephes' attitude showing up the most in your life?

In which of these environments do you find it easiest to serve others?

Oftentimes we find it hardest to serve those who are closest to us. Why do you think that is?

3. Character plays a major role in leading by example. In any position of influence, "what we are is what we'll get." God is committed to developing godly character in us but we each have a part to play in that process. What insights do you see about strong character and how it's developed in **2 Peter 1:3-9**?

Can you think of any potential roadblocks that keep people from developing godly character?

Which of the character qualities mentioned in the passage would you most like to see developed in your life?

4. To lead well involves leading with a long-range perspective. The Apostle Paul was consistently able to maintain a long-term perspective despite facing many challenges and difficulties. What do you see in **2 Corinthians 4:16-18** that helps explain how he was able to maintain his perspective in the face of those difficulties? How can that help you do the same?

As you close, spend time praying for each person in your group.



APRIL/MAY/JUNE CHALLENGE:

Gather, Grow, Go!

We want to see every person who calls Wawasee home do 3 things:

1. **Gather** regularly on Sunday mornings. (Hebrews 10:25).
2. **Grow** by getting connected in a growth ministry like a Life Group, Forge, Women's Bible Study, etc. Don't just show up, *grow up!* (1 Corinthians 3:1-3; Heb. 5:12)
3. **Go** serve somewhere! Wawasee Bible will *never* feel like family to you until you're linking arms and serving somewhere. **Where are you serving?** More than ever, we need people willing to serve. (1 Peter 4:10-11)

How are you doing at these three things? Do you need to **Gather** and show up more regularly? Do you need to **Grow** up and get connected in a Life Group? Do you need to **Go** and get off the sidelines and into the game so that you can contribute rather than just consume?

This spring your challenge is to take some tangible steps to *Gather, Grow, & Go!*

Word Find for 1 Peter 5:1-5 (ESV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

¹ 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**: ² **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**; ³ not **domineering** over those in your **charge**, but **being examples** to the **flock**. ⁴ And **when** the **chief Shepherd** appears, you **will receive** the **unfading crown** of **glory**. ⁵ **Likewise**, you who are **younger**, **be subject** to the **elders**. **Clothe** yourselves, all of you, with **humility toward** one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

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