**September 5, 2021**

**“The Good Shepherd”** going deeper in 1 Peter 5:1-5a

**INTRODUCTION**

Peter just finished his last section of living as a believer in the midst of hardship and suffering. He now turns to speaking to specific groups in the church.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* 1 I appeal to those of you who are Elders. I know what it is like to lead since I am also an Elder. I’ve seen firsthand the sufferings of the Messiah and I, like you, will share in the glory that is coming. 2 I encourage you to care for God’s flock with the conscientiousness of a good shepherd. Not because you have to, but because you want to please God. Not because of what you can get out of it, but because you are eager to serve. 3 Not lording it over those who have been placed in your care, but by being good examples to the flock. 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will be part of his victory celebration. 5 Those of you who are younger, you must follow your Elders.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. Why do you think that Peter lets them know that he is also an Elder? Why not use his title as an apostle?

2. Why does Peter use the image of a shepherd for the Elders? See John 21:15-19.

3. What are the qualities of a good shepherd? Who has been a good shepherd in your life? What did you learn from them?

4. When it comes to those you have influence over how are you doing as a good shepherd? If you are in a small group share together in things you have learned about being a good shepherd.

5. Who is the Chief Shepherd? What have you learned from Him about being a good shepherd?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Thank the Lord Jesus for being your good shepherd.

\*Thank the Lord Jesus for the people he put in your life who have good shepherds for you. Name them and ask the Lord to bless those who are still with us.

\*Ask the Lord for the wisdom, compassion, and strength to be a good shepherd to those he has placed in your life.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

The Lord of All has placed people in your life whom He has called you to shepherd (family members, workers & co-workers, friends, neighbors etc.). Will you ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to be the best shepherd you can be to those people this week?