

Persevering as the Church

1 Peter 5:1-11
Small Group Questions

WEEK OF JULY 27-AUGUST 2, 2025

- (1) Read 1 Peter 4:12-5:11.
 - (a) How does chapter 5 connect with what Peter says in 4:12-19?
 - (b) Why is this context important to rightly understanding chapter 5?
- (2) Talk for a few minutes on the importance of faithful, Christ-like shepherd-teachers (elders) as means by which God is preserving His Church. Consider 1 Peter 5:1-4 and Ephesians 4:11-16.
 - (a) What experience in Peter's life might be informing his instructions to elders in verses 1-4? John 21:15-17 is helpful here.
 - (b) Jesus confronted Israel's elders for abdicating their responsibility. This was not a new problem. Read and discuss how elders in the Church are meant to be God's solution to the kind of shepherding seen in Jeremiah 23:1-4.
 - (c) Go over the specific instructions in 1 Peter 5:1-4; what is the significance of each?
- (3) Peter identifies *pride* and *anxiety* as threats to believers' spiritual wellbeing and faithfulness. In what ways do each of these sins undermine effective perseverance in the Christian life?
 - (a) What is Peter's counsel to attack pride? How is it echoed in James 4:6-10? Does James add anything to Peter's counsel?
 - (b) The way Peter writes verse 7 places the whole verse as a way of fleshing out the command in verse 6 ("humble yourselves"). How is anxiety a subtle form of pride?
 - (c) Read Philippians 4:1-9. What "treatment plan" for anxiety does God give us between Peter and Paul's exhortations?
- (4) We are called to resist the assaults of Satan and his demons. What ways do we see Satan assaulting believers in these passages, and how can we effectively resist according to Peter, as well as other passages on spiritual warfare (e.g., Ephesians 6:10-18; 2 Corinthians 10:1-5)?

Luke 22:31-32 & 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
1 Corinthians 7:3-5
1 Timothy 3:1-2, 6-7

- (5) How do 1 Peter 5:10-11, 2 Thessalonians 3:3, and John 17:15 give us peace in the battle?