



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Sermon Title: "Character Witness"

Series Title: "1 Peter: Living it Out"

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Steve Miller

1 Peter 5:1-11

May 31, 2026

Description/theme:

In this passage from 1 Peter 5 we see that Peter is speaking first to an elder audience about how it is that they are to shepherd the flock and the character that they are to exhibit while they are shepherding. Second, there is the call to those who are younger people in the life of the church to put on humility rather than pride. Third, Peter then encourages the church as to how they manage adversity, anxiety, and demonic attack. Fourth, there is also a final encouragement of how God's grace and healing will restore them after they have lived faithfully.

Icebreaker (for groups):

If you ever been mentored by someone, what aspects of their character affected you? In what ways did you follow their example? If you ever mentored someone, how were you both blessed?

Reflections on the Sermon:

What points from Pastor Steve's sermon resonated with you?

Scripture Passages: 1 Peter 5:1–11 (NIV)

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: ² Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; ³ not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

⁵ In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because,

"God opposes the proud
but shows favor to the humble."

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

⁸ Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

¹⁰ And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. ¹¹ To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

NOTE FOR GROUP LEADERS: Consider focusing on the *-marked questions if you have time constraints.

Reviewing the Scriptures:

1. In verse 1, on what basis is Peter making his appeal to the elders? What event(s) had he experienced, which most of the elders had likely not experienced?



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

2. *In verses 2-3, which of the following mindsets are the most important or most challenging to you: a) willingness to watch over others; b) eager to serve; c) being an example to others? Why?
3. In verse 4, what reward will the elders receive when the Chief Shepherd appears? Who is the Chief Shepherd and why is he qualified to hold that position? To whom must the elders submit, then?
4. In verse 5a, who is Peter addressing, and what is his second appeal? How might this appeal be particularly challenging to this segment of the population?
5. *In verses 5b-6, who is Peter addressing? What character trait does Peter emphasize they must have to shepherd well? Why is this important for elders, and for those who are younger?
6. In verse 7, what challenge does Peter foresee that they will experience while carrying out his appeals? What is good about his advice? What other good advice can you think of?
7. In verse 8a, what is Peter's third appeal and what do you think he means? In verse 8b, who is the enemy that will work against them? Have you ever felt that the enemy is working against you?
8. In verse 9, what is Peter's fourth appeal? What had God given them so they could do what Peter tells them to do? What comfort does Peter offer here?
9. *In verse 10, to what end did God call those whom Peter is addressing? When will this happen? What will God do for them? Do you receive this as His promise, or simply wishful thinking?

Going Deeper:

1. In verse 1, how did Peter's experiences qualify him to make this appeal to his fellow elders? Did Jesus ever tell Peter to be a shepherd of His flock? If so, what were the circumstances?
2. *In what ways can a believer be a shepherd to other believers? How can a believer be a shepherd to non-believers, if it is even possible?
3. In verse 2a, is Peter's appeal to the elders only for ordained elders and church leaders? If not, how might it apply to God's flock that is under their care? How might this foster church unity?
4. *How can acting as a shepherd help us change how we live life? What costs and blessings are possible by doing this?
5. In what ways does the devil try to weaken our faith? How have you used what has God given you to stand firm in your faith?
6. *Because God Almighty has called a believer to His eternal glory, how confident are you that He will restore you? How do your thinking and actions reflect that confidence in times of suffering?
7. As a believer, how do your responses to seasons of suffering compare with those before You believed? Have you seen a similar change in other believers?
8. What does "clothed with humility" mean to you? What does it look like in others? What would others say it looks like in you?

Personal Reflection Questions (Optional for groups)

1. How might you shepherd others? Could God be calling you to shepherd a person whom He has placed on your heart? How can this passage help you approach and shepherd them well?
2. What kind of example are you for others during your times of suffering, or when they come to you in their suffering?
3. Which of the following mindsets might be keeping you from being as fruitful as God made you to be: a) serving out of duty b) serving for selfish reasons; c) serving by lording over others?

Opportunities to Fulfill God's Purpose through Serving:

- **Ladies Night at OCRM** - It's flower arranging night!



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS


June 15, 2026, 6:30 - 8:00pm

Women of Trinity, join the ladies of the Orange County Rescue Mission for an evening with flower arranging, fellowship, and snacks. Space is limited. Contact Debbie Ewing (dewing@cox.net) for more details.

- **Serve Day with Family Promise of OC** - Help spread Father's Day joy!

June 16, 2026, 10:00am - 12:00pm

Help spread some Father's Day joy by assembling gift baskets for the dads in their residential program. For more information about this service opportunity, contact Melody Mosley (mms@melodymosley.com).

 To explore local service opportunities, go to www.trinityconnection.com and click on the "Serve" link near the top right to reach the "Ways to Serve" screen and scroll down.

Prayer:

God of all grace, thank You for Jesus, our Chief Shepherd, who has given us an unshakable hope in Your call to eternal glory. May this hope align our willingness to serve with Christ's mindset as a humble and obedient servant who endured every kind of suffering, even death on a cross. May we clothe ourselves with humility, whether You have called us to shepherd, or if we are the ones being shepherded. May we glorify You through our seasons of suffering, confident that You will restore us and make us strong, firm, and steadfast. To You, Father, be the power for ever and ever. Amen.