

1. Leaders in the Early Christian church

- a) Acts 6:1–6
- b) Acts 14:23
- c) Acts 15:4–6
- d) 1 Timothy 5:17
- e) What can we learn from these passages about the responsibilities and challenges of leadership in the Early Christian Church?

2. Peter’s counsel to elders

- a) 1 Peter 5:1–4
- b) Why do you think Peter chooses the metaphor of a flock of sheep to describe the church?
 - i) John 10:10–16
 - ii) John 21:15–17
- c) What important insights can we learn from Peter’s counsel to shepherd elders?
- d) What is the significance of Peter’s words “I am a fellow elder”?
- e) Some shepherds were poor examples to the flock
 - i) Jeremiah 10:21
 - ii) Ezekiel 34:8–10
 - iii) Zechariah 11:17
- f) You might say, “I’m glad I don’t have the responsibility of shepherding God’s flock!” But how do these words of warning apply to all of us?

3. Called to be servants rather than lords

- a) Does the instruction of Peter to elders in 1 Peter 5:3 remind you of any teaching of Jesus? Matthew 20:20–28
- b) Why is it so easy to start acting like lords and expect those under our leadership to serve us?
- c) The example of Jesus as a servant leader
 - i) John 13:1–17
 - ii) Philippians 2:5–11

4. Serving with humility

- a) 1 Peter 5:5–7
- b) Why is humility such an important characteristic for all Christians, including Christian leaders?
- c) Philippians 2:1–4. Examples?

5. Prepared for the attacks of the enemy

- a) 1 Peter 5:8–10
- b) Why does Satan want to destroy followers of Jesus?
 - i) John 8:44
 - ii) Revelation 12:7–9
- c) How are we able to resist such a powerful foe?
 - i) 1 Peter 5:9
 - ii) James 4:7–10
 - iii) Ephesians 6:10–18 (see also Matthew 4:1–11)
- d) Why are Christian leaders a special target for the enemy?

