



How  
We Gather

**Served by Elders**





“I work alone.”





# How We Gather

**The God of Order  
designed leadership**



**FLY HOME, BUDDY. I WORK ALONE.**



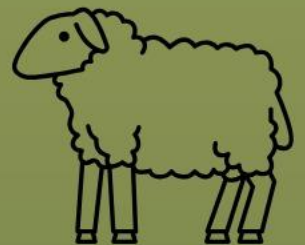
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# 1. History of elders as biblical pattern

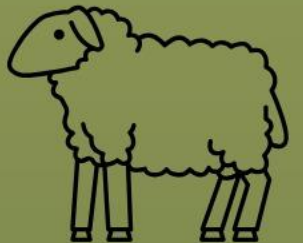
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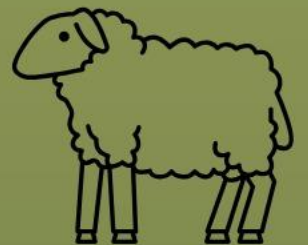
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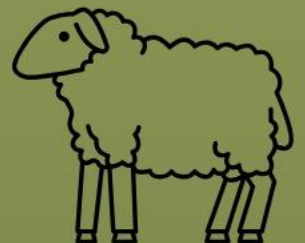
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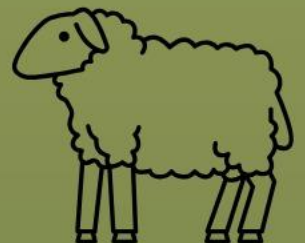
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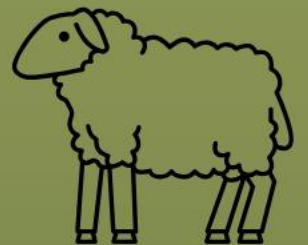
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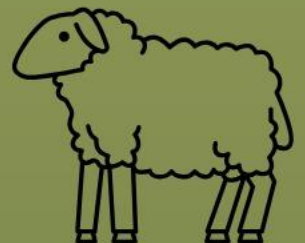
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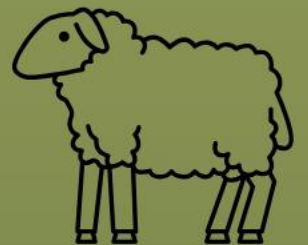
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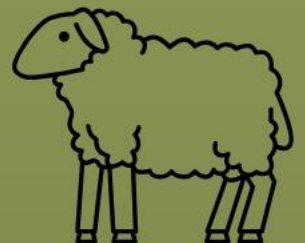
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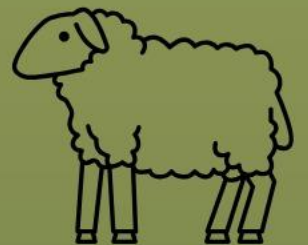
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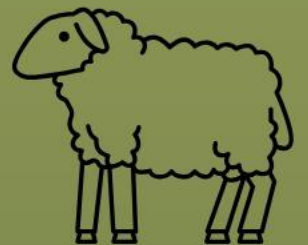
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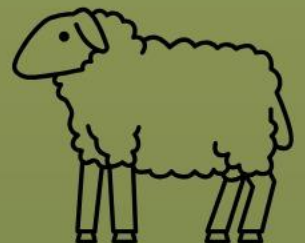


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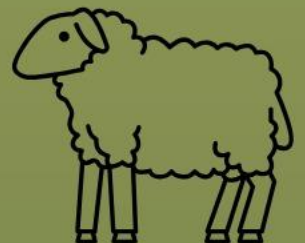
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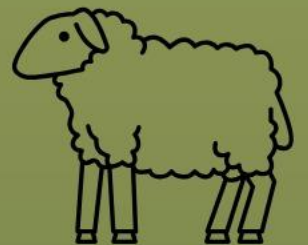
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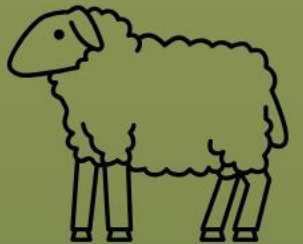
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- Jesus → apostles → elders



## 2. Humility of elders as under-shepherds

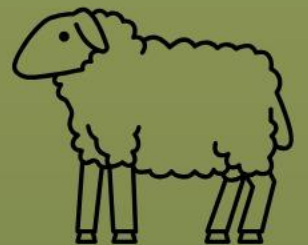
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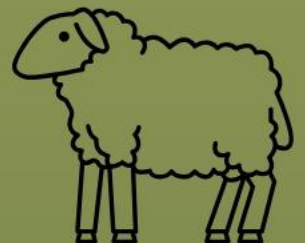
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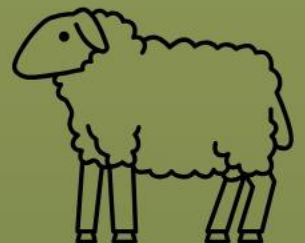
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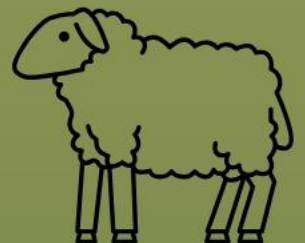
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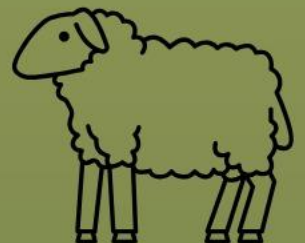


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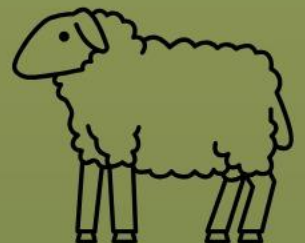
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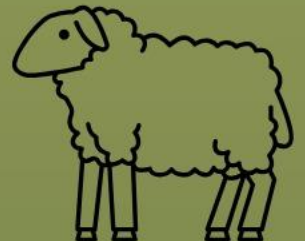
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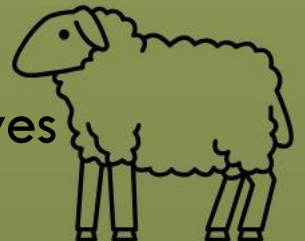
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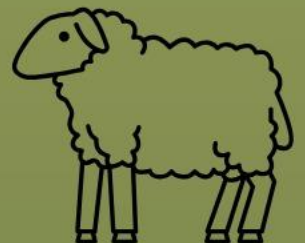
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- Elders = humble servants

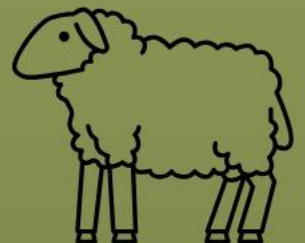


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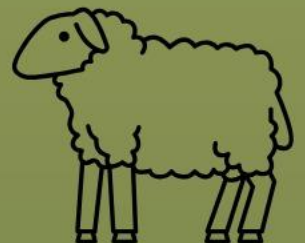
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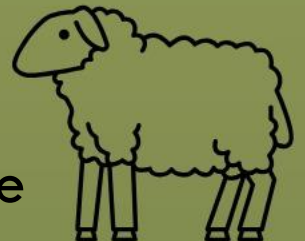


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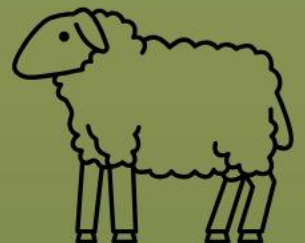
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- <sup>45</sup> For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”



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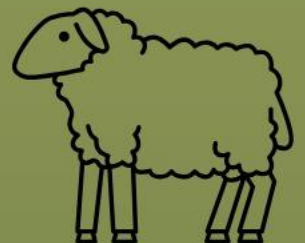
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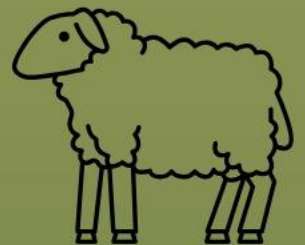
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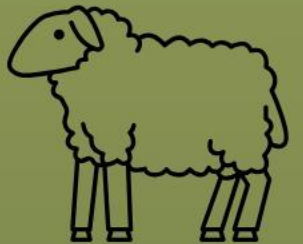
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  - <sup>16</sup> "Truly I tell you, a servant is not greater than his master, and a messenger is not greater than the one who sent him.



# 3. Qualifications of elders as mature Christians

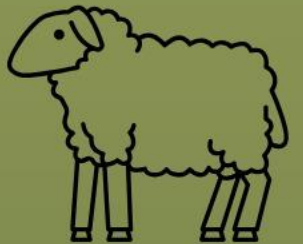
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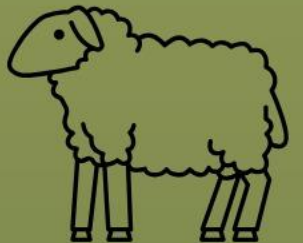


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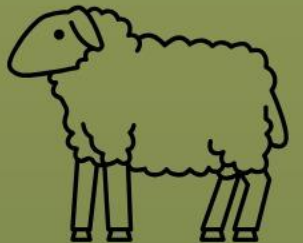


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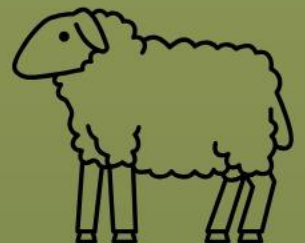


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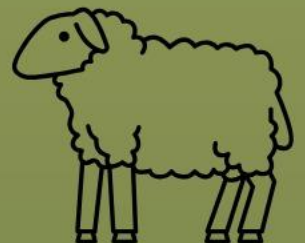


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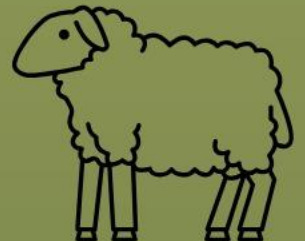


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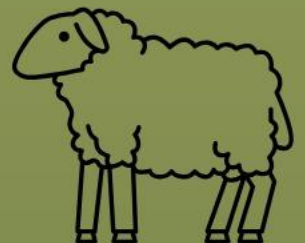


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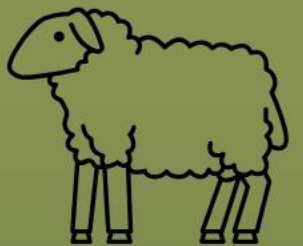
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- <sup>7</sup> Furthermore, he must have a good reputation among outsiders, so that he does not fall into disgrace and the devil’s trap.



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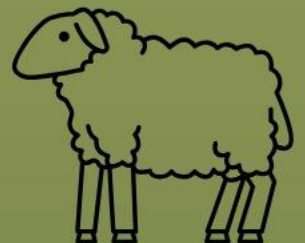
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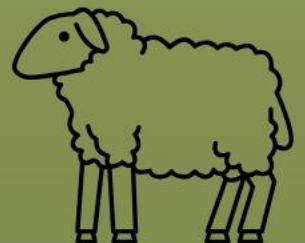
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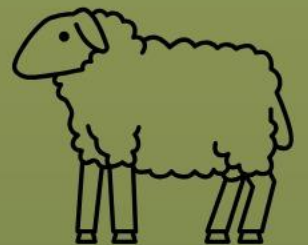
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# 4. Plurality of elders as wisdom

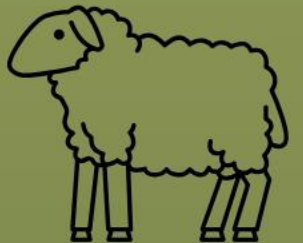
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## 4. Plurality of elders as wisdom

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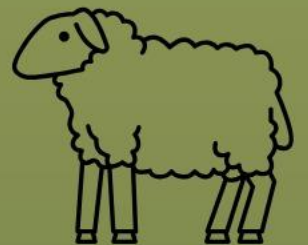
- Office of elder: always in plural form!



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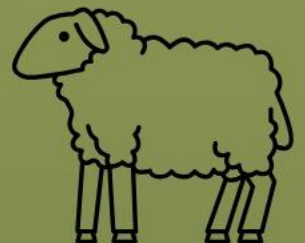
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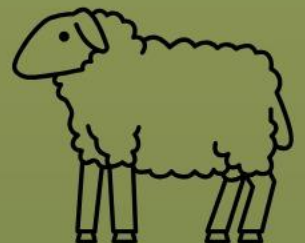
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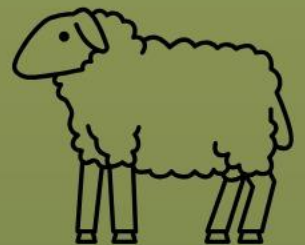
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# 5. Tasks of elders as overseeing shepherds

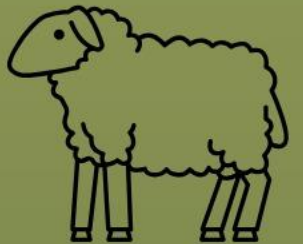
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## 5. Tasks of elders as overseeing shepherds

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- NT titles: elder, overseer, pastor



# 5. Tasks of elders as overseeing shepherds

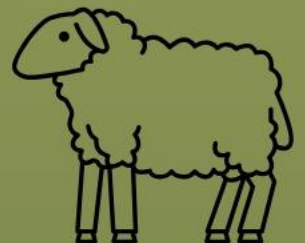
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- <sup>1</sup> he... summoned the elders of the church.

- <sup>28</sup> the Holy Spirit has appointed you as overseers, to shepherd the church of God



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- Acts 20

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- 1 Peter 5

- I exhort the elders among you...

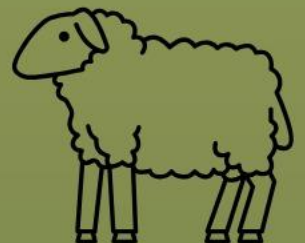
- <sup>2</sup> Shepherd God's flock among you, not overseeing out of compulsion but willingly



## 5. Tasks of elders as overseeing shepherds

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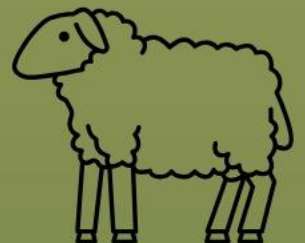
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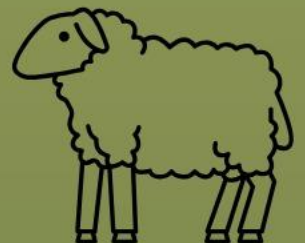
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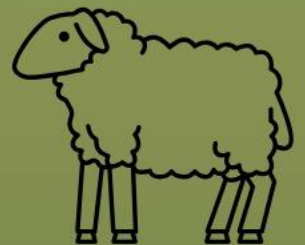
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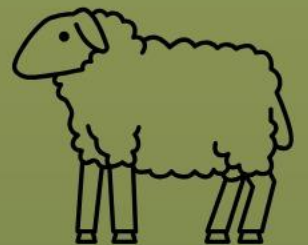
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  - Elder meetings: Wednesdays 6am-8am
  - Preaching, kids' ministries, small groups, discipleship triangles



## 5. Tasks of elders as overseeing shepherds

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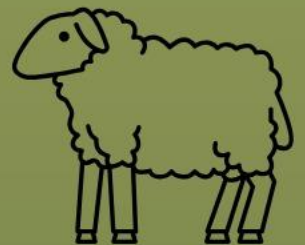
- B) Guarding and shepherding the flock



## 5. Tasks of elders as overseeing shepherds

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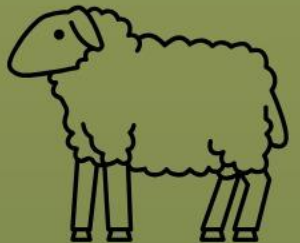
- B) Guarding and shepherding the flock
  - Acts 20.28 Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as overseers, to shepherd the church of God, which he purchased with his own blood.



## 5. Tasks of elders as overseeing shepherds

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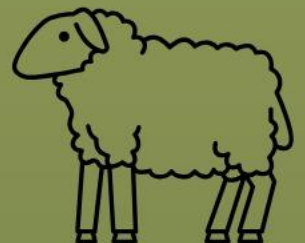
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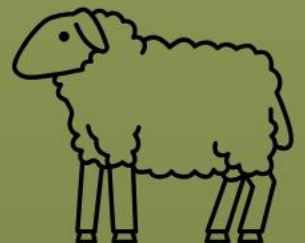
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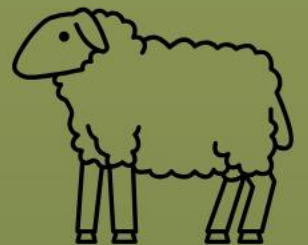
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  - Mini-flocks: members connected to elders



## 5. Tasks of elders as overseeing shepherds

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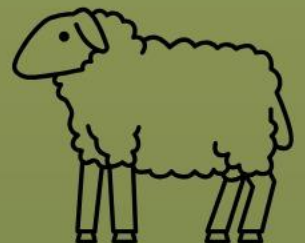
- C) Helping people become like Jesus



## 5. Tasks of elders as overseeing shepherds

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- C) Helping people become like Jesus
  - Ephesians 4
  - <sup>11</sup> And he (Jesus) himself gave some to be...  
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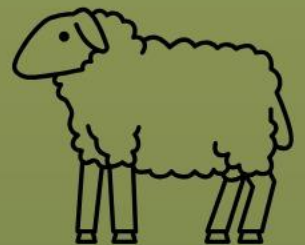
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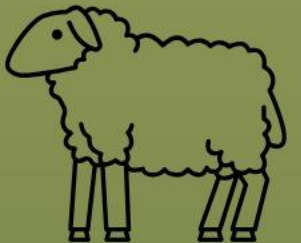
- <sup>11</sup> And he (Jesus) himself gave some to be...  
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- <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ's fullness.



# 6. Maleness of elders as biblical pattern

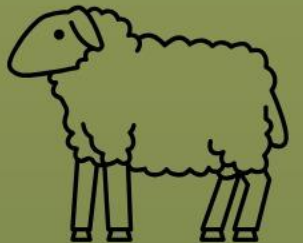
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## 6. Maleness of elders as biblical pattern

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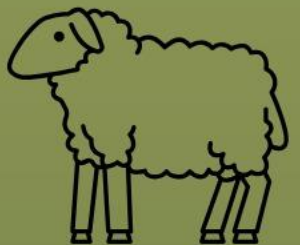
- God created men and women in His image (Genesis 1.27)



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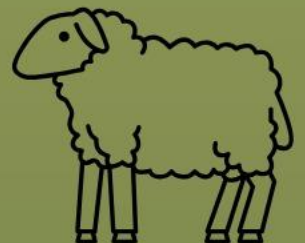
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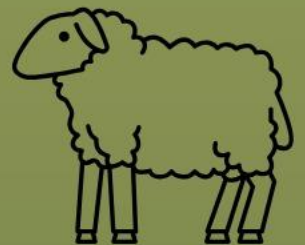
- God created men and women in His image (Genesis 1.27)
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  - Different roles: male headship in the home (Ephesians 5.23) and church (1 Timothy 2.12 authority for males not females; 1 Tim 3 & Titus 1 “he/him, husband of one wife, his household”)



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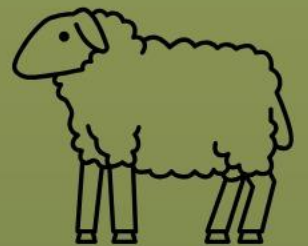
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- We believe the office of elder is to be filled by qualified men



# 7. Church members' call to elders

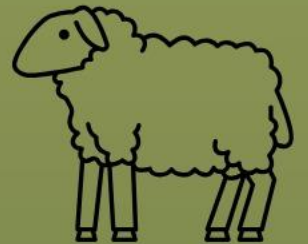
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# 7. Church members' call to elders

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- A) Honor them



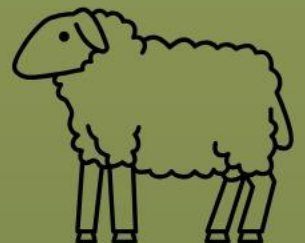
# 7. Church members' call to elders

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- 1 Thessalonians 5 (NLT)

- <sup>12</sup> Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord's work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance. <sup>13</sup> Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work. And live peacefully with each other.



# 7. Church members' call to elders

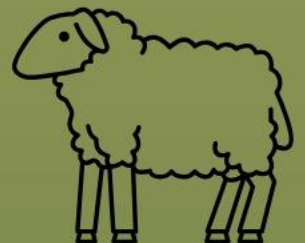
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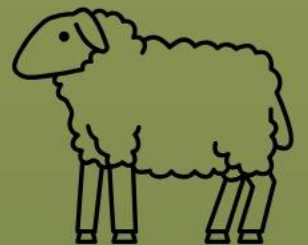
- Honor: “esteem, show value or worth”



## 7. Church members' call to elders

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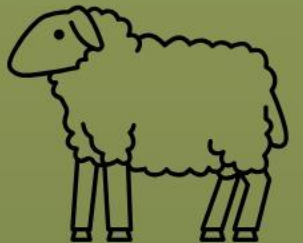
- A) Honor them
- Potentially pay some of them



# 7. Church members' call to elders

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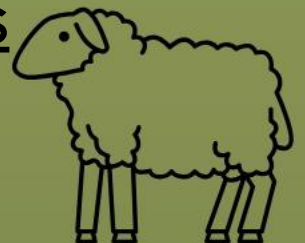
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  - <sup>17</sup> The elders who are good leaders are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. <sup>18</sup> For the Scripture says: Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain, and, “The worker is worthy of his wages.”



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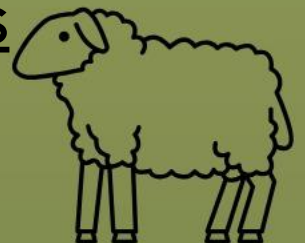
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  - Galatians 6.6
    - Let the one who is taught the word share all his good things with the teacher.



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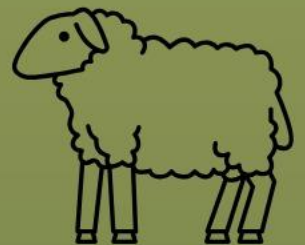
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  - Galatians 6.6
    - Let the one who is taught the word share all his good things with the teacher.
- Pastor vs elder?



# 7. Church members' call to elders

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- B) Obey them

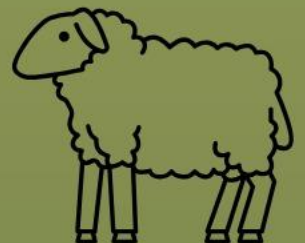


## 7. Church members' call to elders

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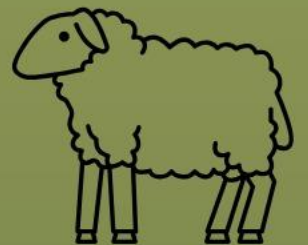
- Hebrews 13.17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, since they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account, so that they can do this with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.



## 7. Church members' call to elders

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- C) Keep them accountable



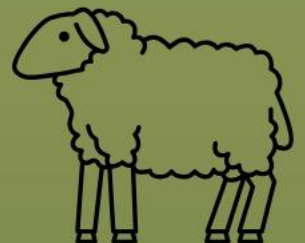
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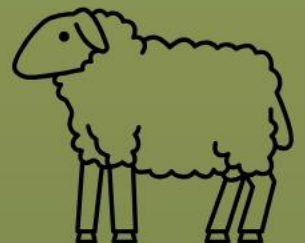
- <sup>19</sup> Don't accept an accusation against an elder unless it is supported by two or three witnesses. <sup>20</sup> Publicly rebuke those who sin, so that the rest will be afraid.



## 7. Church members' call to elders

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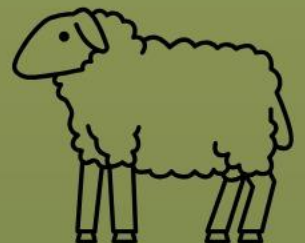
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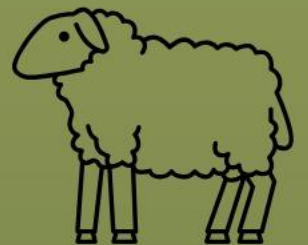
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  - Don't protect sinful leaders.
  - Don't recklessly accuse faithful leaders.



# 7. Church members' call to elders

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- D) Imitate them

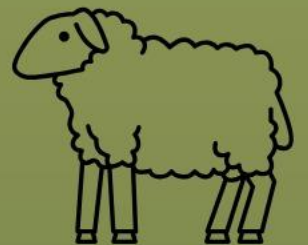


## 7. Church members' call to elders

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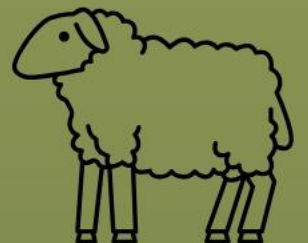


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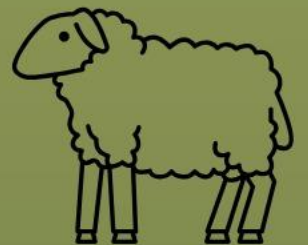


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- 1 Corinthians 11.1 Imitate me, as I also imitate Christ.







How  
We Gather

**It's all about Jesus.**

A close-up photograph of a person's hand, wearing a dark jacket, resting gently on the back of a white sheep. The scene is set outdoors at sunset, with a warm, golden light illuminating the landscape. In the background, a herd of sheep is grazing on a grassy hillside under a hazy sky.

Jesus is our example

How  
We Gather

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A close-up photograph of a person's hand, wearing a dark jacket, resting gently on the back of a white sheep. The scene is set outdoors at sunset or sunrise, with a warm, golden light illuminating the background. In the background, a herd of sheep is grazing in a field, and distant hills are visible under a soft, hazy sky. The overall mood is peaceful and pastoral.

Jesus is our example  
Jesus is our rescuer

How  
We Gather

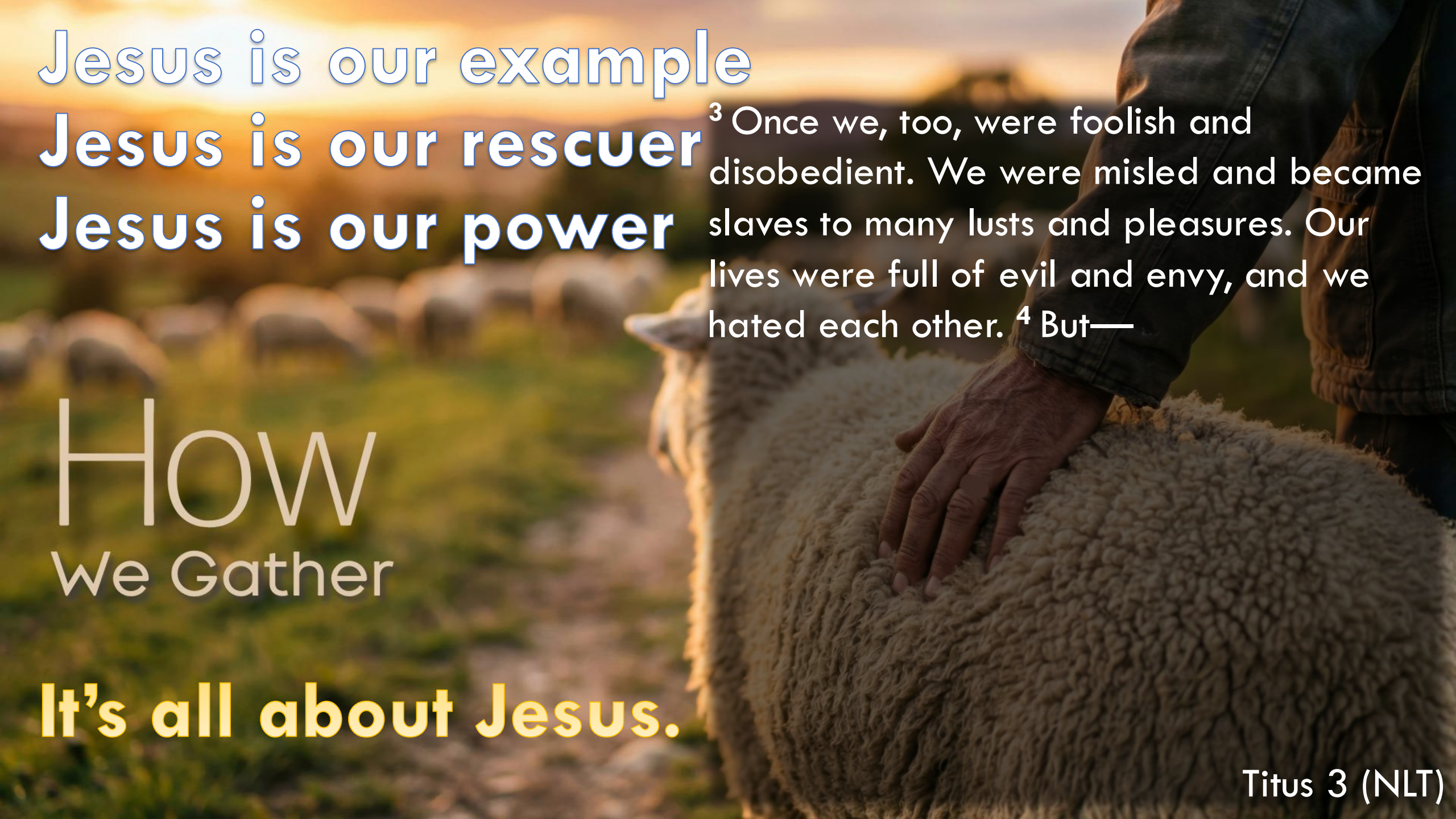
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Jesus is our example  
Jesus is our rescuer  
Jesus is our power

How  
We Gather

**It's all about Jesus.**

A close-up photograph of a person's hand, wearing a dark jacket, resting gently on the back of a white sheep. The sheep is in a grassy field, and the background is a soft-focus landscape with a warm, golden sunset sky. The overall mood is peaceful and pastoral.

**Jesus is our example**

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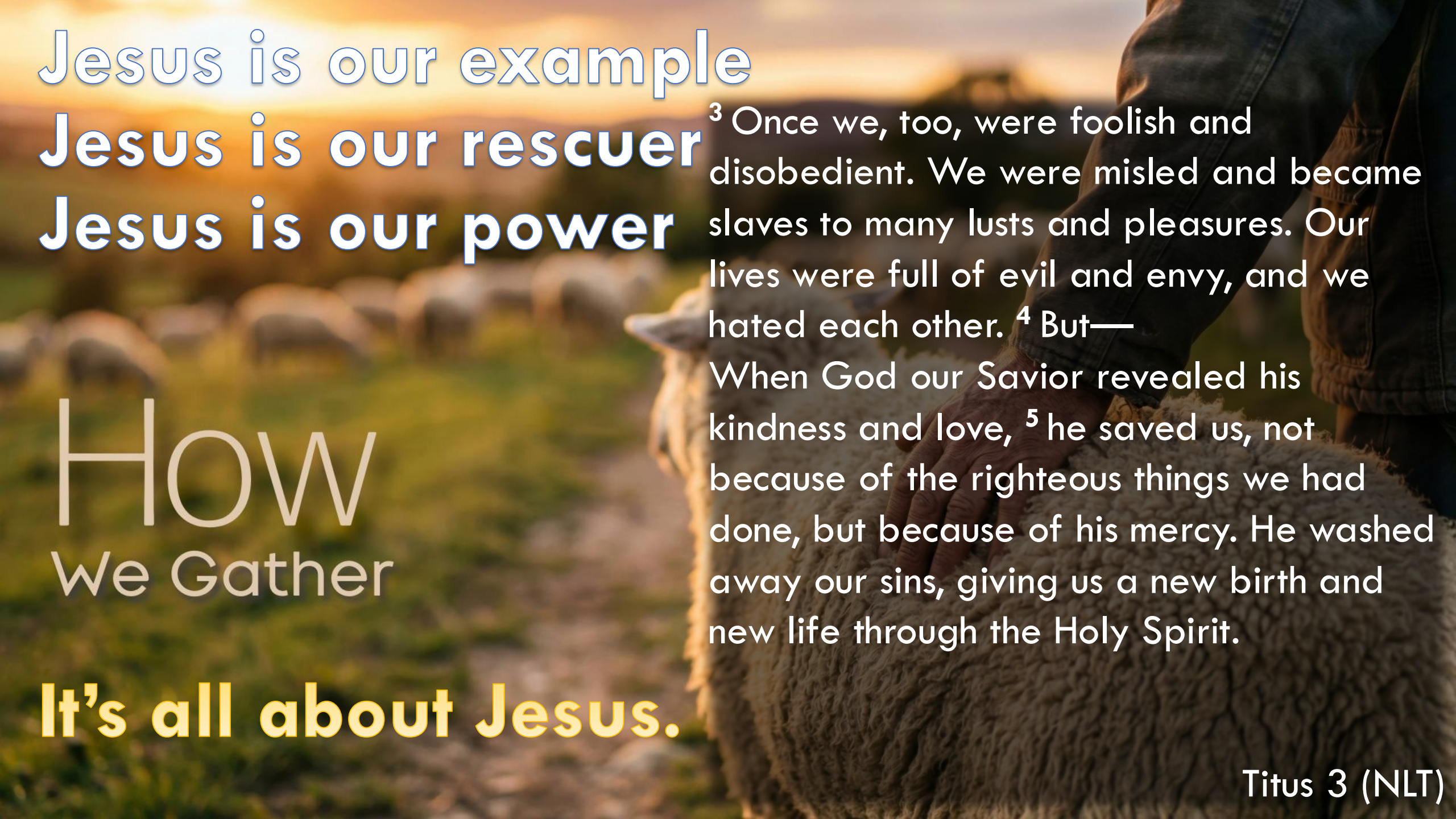
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<sup>3</sup> Once we, too, were foolish and disobedient. We were misled and became slaves to many lusts and pleasures. Our lives were full of evil and envy, and we hated each other. <sup>4</sup> But—

How  
We Gather

**It's all about Jesus.**

Titus 3 (NLT)

A close-up photograph of a person's hand, wearing a dark jacket, gently resting on the back of a sheep. The sheep is white and woolly. The background is a soft-focus landscape with a warm, golden sunset or sunrise sky, creating a peaceful and contemplative atmosphere.

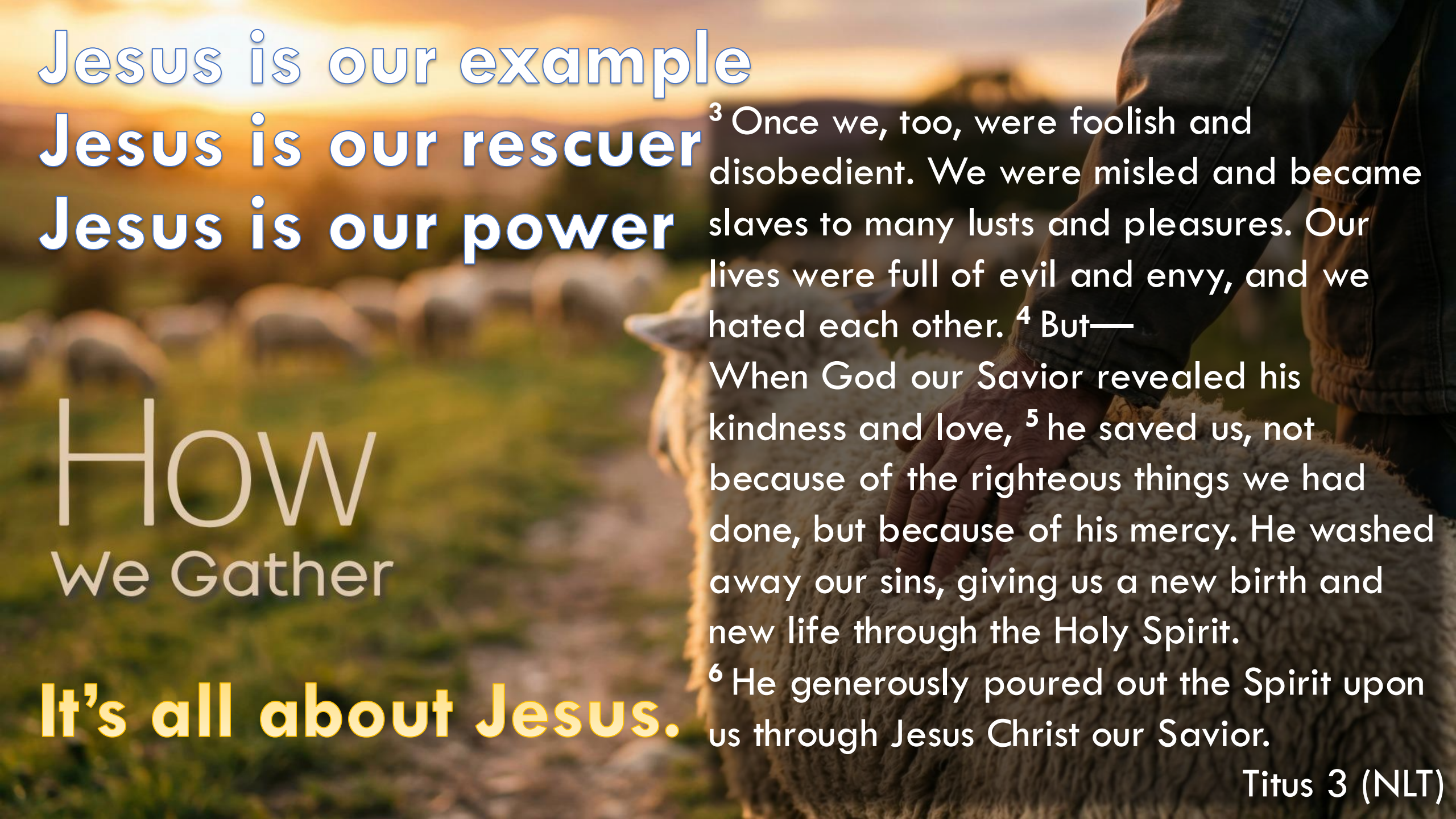
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How  
We Gather

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When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit.

Titus 3 (NLT)

A person wearing a denim jacket is petting a sheep in a grassy field. The background is a warm sunset with a golden glow. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

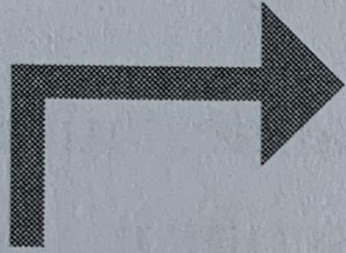
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How  
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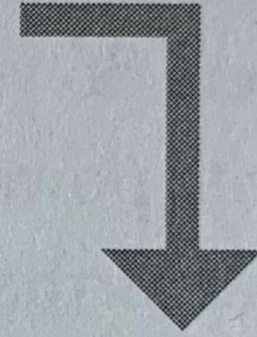
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When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit.  
<sup>6</sup> He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Titus 3 (NLT)



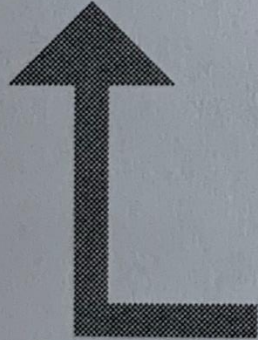
**Stepping out  
to lead others  
as a servant**



**Seeing my failure  
as a servant leader**



**Repenting of sin;  
turning to Christ  
in faith**



**Fresh empowerment  
& grace from the Spirit**