

A Shepherd's Heart

This 5-day devotional guide will help you prepare your heart for the upcoming Sunday sermon, "A Shepherd's Heart." It may also be used as a guide for family devotions and is for the

week	beginning	Monday,
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September 28, 2026.

Monday

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:2

Questions for Reflection

- What command does Peter give to the elders in this verse?
- Whose flock are the elders called to shepherd?
- How does remembering that the church is "God's flock" shape the way you view spiritual leadership?
- In what ways can you encourage your pastors and spiritual leaders as they care for God's people?

Questions for Children

- What does Peter tell elders to do?
- Who does the flock belong to?

Prayer Prompt

Lord, thank You for giving pastors the responsibility to care for Your flock. Help me value Your church and support those who shepherd it faithfully.

Tuesday

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:2

Questions for Reflection

- What contrast does Peter make between serving "by compulsion" and serving "willingly"?
- According to this verse, what motive should not drive shepherding ministry?
- How can unwilling service or selfish motives harm ministry to others?
- Where might God be calling you to serve others more willingly and eagerly?

Questions for Children

- Should elders serve because they are forced or because they want to?
- What wrong reason for serving does Peter mention?

Prayer Prompt

Father, give me a willing heart to serve others in ways that please You. Protect me from selfish motives and teach me to serve eagerly for Your glory.

Wednesday

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:3

Questions for Reflection

- What kind of leadership does Peter warn against in this verse?
- What positive model of leadership does Peter command instead?

- Why is example-based leadership more Christlike than domineering leadership?
- Who is watching your example, and what are they learning from your words, attitudes, and choices?

Questions for Children

- How does Peter say leaders should not act?
- What should leaders be for the flock?

Prayer Prompt

Lord Jesus, make me the kind of example who points others toward You. Help our leaders shepherd with humility, patience, and lives worth following.

Thursday

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:4

Questions for Reflection

- What title does Peter give to Jesus in this verse?
- What reward is promised when the Chief Shepherd appears?
- How does the promise of Christ's appearing encourage faithful ministry now?
- What earthly rewards or recognition might distract you from pleasing the Chief Shepherd?

Questions for Children

- What does Peter call Jesus in this verse?

- What kind of crown does Jesus promise?

Prayer Prompt

Chief Shepherd, keep my eyes on Your return and Your approval. Help our church serve faithfully now because Your reward will never fade away.

Friday

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:2-4

Questions for Reflection

- What repeated ideas about shepherding, serving, example, and reward do you notice across these verses?
- How do these verses connect the work of earthly shepherds with the authority of the Chief Shepherd?
- What does this passage teach you about the kind of heart God desires in spiritual leaders?
- How can you pray for and respond to your pastors in light of this passage before Sunday's sermon?

Questions for Children

- What does Peter tell leaders to do for God's flock?
- Who is the Chief Shepherd?

Prayer Prompt

Lord, prepare my heart to hear Your Word about shepherding and spiritual leadership. Give our pastors a shepherd's heart, and help our church follow the Chief Shepherd together.