



FALL 2026 // WEEK 5

GrowGroup Questions

Sermon Based Groups // October 18, 2026

Pastor Pat Finley // 1 Peter 5

Pastor Appreciation Sunday



Introduction

This morning we take a break from John's Revelation visions to look at the role, responsibilities, and rewards of being called to the office of pastor. God clearly instructs pastors, giving them a specific purpose and vision and then brings in others who support the ministry. The success or failure of a church is based largely on their ability to remain true to their calling.

We encourage you to take some time to read through the questions on the following pages and jot down your thoughts before meeting with your group. Many people also find it helpful to use these questions as a guide for taking notes during the sermon. The purpose of these questions is to spark reflection and encourage meaningful conversation. Remember, you don't need to work through every single question each week—focus on the ones that are most helpful for you and your group.

Getting Started

Transition into group discussion.

- 1) Open group discussion with prayer.
- 2) Read the passage aloud for the group: 1 Tim. 4:1-2; Acts 6:4, 20:17-20, 28; Hebrews 13:7; 1 Peter 3:15, 5:2-3.

Study Questions *(Suggested time: 30-40 min)*

1. In 1 Peter 5:2 Peter states, "Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly..." When you feel yourself serving less from a joyful, willing heart, but more by duty and obligation What can you do?
2. The bible gives qualifications for all leaders but are also goals we all should also attain. "Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil." (1 Timothy 3:7) How is my character perceived by non-believers in my local community, neighborhood, or daily interactions? When are you the weakest?
3. (Using the commands of God in 1 Peter 3:15 as your guide) Am I actively taking time to understand why I believe what I believe so that I can clearly explain the Gospel to a friend, neighbor, or coworker? What is one specific area of my faith or testimony I can prepare to share more effectively this week?

4. When you share or defend your faith—especially in difficult or controversial conversations—are you doing so with gentleness, humility, and respect ("meekness and fear"), or do you feel like your trying to win an argument? How can you ensure my posture reflects the love and character of Christ?

Personal Spiritual Exercises

Prayer *(Suggested time: 10-15 min)*

A meaningful part of “coming together” is being open and genuine about our lives. For some, praying in a group may feel very natural, while for others it may feel new or uncomfortable. If you would prefer not to pray aloud, you’re welcome to pray silently and simply say “Amen” when you’re finished, signaling the next person to pray. Whether spoken or silent, every prayer is part of this shared time in God’s presence.

1. Pray for our Pastors and the ministry of our church to be effective.
2. Take a few moments to think about a prayer request. What are you currently going through that you are still waiting to see how God is going to be glorified? Consider making a prayer request.

Name	Prayer Request

“Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct..” Hebrews 13:7 NKJV