

### “The Truth about Shepherds”

*This set of questions is based on Tim’s sermon preached September 27.*

1. In Scripture, there are three Greek words used to identify a church leader’s role:
  - *presbyteros*: elder, older man
  - *poimēn*: shepherd, pastor
  - *episkopos*: overseer, guardian, bishop

All three words are found in Acts 20 (vv 17, 28) and 1 Peter 5. (*Poimēn* is in its verbal form in these passages.) Read Acts 20:28 and 1 Peter 5:1–4.

Why do you think Scripture uses all three of these descriptions when it identifies someone in the role of elder?

How do these identifying words relate to the other qualities/attributes as listed in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1?

2. Review 1 Timothy 3:1–7 and Titus 1:6–9. Do you see any distinction between calling these passages *qualifications* for elders versus calling them *qualities* of elders? Does the distinction matter as we begin to seek new leaders from among our church family?

What do you see as the most important qualities an elder should possess? What qualities do you see as the most challenging to live out?

Share ways that an elder or elders have practically influenced your life.

#### Recurring Questions

- » How have you seen God working in your life or the lives of those around you this week?
- » What prayer requests would you like to share with the group, including prayer for any spiritual struggles you may be experiencing?