

Tend The Flock

1 Peter 5:1-6

Big Idea: "The Lord is my shepherd." As sheep, we're called to humbly follow Christ, our chief shepherd. Pastors and elders are under-shepherds, guiding with love, not control. In suffering, we grow. In submission, we mature. Trust the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for you.

Day 1: The Good
Shepherd's Love

Reading:
Psalm 23

As we reflect on the beautiful imagery of Psalm 23, we're reminded of God's role as our Good Shepherd. Just as a shepherd cares for his flock, God tenderly watches over us, providing for our needs and guiding us through life's challenges. The pastor mentioned how shepherds would anoint their sheep with oil to protect them from pests - similarly, God anoints us with His love and grace, shielding us from spiritual attacks. Today, meditate on how God has demonstrated His shepherding love in your life. Where have you seen His provision, protection, or guidance? Take time to thank Him for His constant care and commit to following His lead more closely.

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Day 2: Suffering and
Growth

Reading:
Romans 5:3-5

The sermon highlighted how suffering can be a growth opportunity for believers. As we read Romans 5:3-5, we see that suffering produces perseverance, character, and hope. It's not easy to rejoice in our sufferings, but God uses these difficult experiences to shape us more into the image of Christ. Reflect on a recent hardship you've faced. How has God used this challenge to develop your character or deepen your faith? Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a eternal perspective on your trials, helping you to see them as opportunities for spiritual growth rather than mere obstacles to overcome.

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Day 3: Humble
Submission

Reading:
James 4:7-10

Today's passage emphasizes the importance of humility and submission to God. The sermon stressed that humility is the essence of the gospel - recognizing our need for a Savior and surrendering our lives to Him. As you read James 4:7-10, consider areas of your life where you might be resisting God's authority. Are there "fence-crawling" tendencies in your heart, always looking for greener pastures outside of God's will? Take time to humble yourself before the Lord, confessing any pride or rebellion. Ask Him to help you fully submit to His loving leadership in every area of your life.

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Day 4: Servant
Leadership

Reading:
1 Peter 5:1-4

Our passage today addresses spiritual leaders, but its principles apply to anyone in a position of influence. God calls leaders to serve willingly, eagerly, and as examples - not for personal gain or to dominate others. Whether you're a parent, mentor, teacher, or leader in any capacity, how can you embody these servant-leadership qualities? Reflect on Jesus' ultimate example of servant leadership, laying down His life for us. Ask God to cultivate a servant's heart within you, helping you to lead and influence others with humility, love, and sacrificial care.

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Day 5: Hope in Future
Glory

Reading:
Romans 8:18-25

The sermon reminded us that our present sufferings are not worth comparing to the glory that awaits us. As you read Romans 8:18-25, allow its message of hope to lift your spirit. Like a runner looking toward the finish line, we're encouraged to endure present difficulties by focusing on our eternal reward. What current struggles are weighing on you? How does the promise of future glory with Christ change your perspective on these challenges? Spend time in prayer, thanking God for the hope we have in Christ and asking Him to strengthen your faith as you await the full revelation of His glory.

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