

GNCOMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

SERMON SERIES: "MAKE IT TO MATURITY"

SERMON TITLE: "GOOD SHEPHERD"

DATE PREACHED: SUNDAY, APRIL 7TH 2019

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◆ **Facilitator NOTE:** AS YOU PREPARE AHEAD OF TIME, LOOK THROUGH THE PASSAGES/QUESTIONS BELOW TO HELP YOURSELF PRIORITIZE THE THINGS THAT YOU DEFINITELY WANT TO COVER WITH THE TIME YOU HAVE AVAILABLE. YOU LIKELY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO COVER ALL THIS MATERIAL. TRY TO KEEP THE STUDIES TO AROUND AN HOUR FOR THE KIDS/KIDS-HELPERS SAKE.

SERMON IN A SENTENCE:

"THE ROLE OF A SHEPHERD IS TO POINT PEOPLE TO THE GOOD SHEPHERD."

(use the questions you want to use, ignore the ones you don't want to use, and add any that you think would be good)

WARM UP QUESTIONS:

- ☞ What do you think the role of an elder is within a church?
- ☞ What authority does an elder have or not have?
- ☞ What are the good or bad examples of elders that you've seen (without naming names).
- ☞ Why is it healthy for churches to have elders helping to lead the church?
- ☞ Elder, Shepherd, Pastor, & Overseer are all synonyms used as the names for an elder. How are some of these self descriptive to the role of an elder?

TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO READ BOTH OF PAUL'S DESCRIPTIONS OF A HEALTHY ELDER:

1 Timothy 3:1-7 — "1 Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. 2 Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. 5 (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) 6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. 7 He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap."

Titus 1:5-9 — “**5** The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. **6** An elder must be blameless, faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. **7** Since an overseer manages God’s household, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. **8** Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. **9** He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.”

- 🗨️ What is Paul’s heart and main point through these two passages describing elders?
- 🗨️ Which characteristics stick out to you the most or sound super important in your mind?
- 🗨️ Which one seems the most confusing or out of place?
- 🗨️ According to what Paul said to Titus, who appoints elders? Is it a congregational vote?

1 Peter 5:1-4 — “**1** To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ’s sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: **2** Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; **3** not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. **4** And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.”

- 🗨️ According to the Apostle Peter, what is an elder called to do in the church?
- 🗨️ What is an elder not supposed to do?
- 🗨️ Who are the elders accountable to and why is this significant? (v. 4)

John 10:9-11 — “I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.”

 What can we learn from Jesus words in this passage, especially in regards to elders of a church?

TAKE THIS HOME WITH YOU “TAKEAWAY”:

 Pray for the leadership at Good News Church, especially the future elders.

 Close in prayer.

MATCHING THEME IDEAS FOR THE KID’S LESSON:

— I’d encourage a worship time if possible (youtube works great {Lifetree Kids & Bible Project}).

— Ask them if they have any things in their life that they need Jesus’ help with, and then pray for the requests of the group.

— And feel free to ask any of the kids if they’d like to say a prayer for the group.

 Read **John 10:9-11** — “I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.””

Ask the kiddos questions like:

- What is a shepherd?
- What kinds of things does a shepherd do?

Activity Ideas:

 Have most of the kids act like a sheep herd, and have them take turns being the shepherd that is trying to lead them to better pastures (food) or water. From one side of the room to the other.