

- 1 **Take a moment to reflect on some of the leaders who have influenced you well in your faith and walk with the Lord.** What qualities or character traits most impacted you about them?


 *How does Hebrews 13:7 provide an ideal picture of both a spiritual leader and their influence?*

- 2 **Think about both the essential character and skill for leaders of a local church.** What habits of holiness must be cultivated in an elder's life for them to be able to fulfill their role as God intended? What competencies or skills did Paul say a church elder must have?

 *Why is it important for you to understand the role and qualifications of elders according to scripture?*

 *What application does a passage like this have on your life, even if you are not a pastor/elder?*


- 3 **Though not everyone in the church needs to manifest all the qualifications of an elder, there are several spiritual qualities all believers ought to emulate.** Considering our passage, what negative behaviors do you need to give up? What positive behaviors do you need to be more intentional about developing in your life?


 *What should be the relationship between the way a person lives and the message that person declares to be the foundation of his or her life? (See also 1 Timothy 4:11-16*, 1 John 2:4-6, Matthew 7:16-18, James 2:14-17, 1 Peter 2:12)*

 *What can one who desires to grow in leadership in the church learn from this passage?*


4 **Think of what the Bible says are the qualifications for pastors listed in Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 2 Timothy 4:1-5; 1 Peter 5:1-5.** Which seems to be emphasized more strongly in the church today—character or skill?

 *What is it about our culture that values one aspect over the other? Which should be emphasized, and why?*

 *Survey a few of the following passages: 1 Sam 16:7; 2 Chron. 16:9; Ps. 51:10; Prov. 4:23; 1 Thess. 2:4. What correlations can you draw for your own fulfillment of the roles and responsibilities God has given you?*

 *Based on what God says about these priorities, what adjustments need to be made in your own life and ministry?*

5 **How can a man's example of family leadership give a window into his potential as an elder?**

 *Considering that a pastor is either qualified or disqualified by his family, how could you support the family care of your pastor(s)? What can churches do to encourage the spiritual lives of pastors, their wives, and their children?*