



## Study Guide: Honoring our Shepherds

**Sermon Topic:** The Roles and Responsibilities of Elders

**Link:** <https://oregoncitychurch.org/podcasts/media/2026-02-01-the-roles-and-responsibilities-of-elders-prayer-truth-and-shepherding>

Scripture Focus	Speaker	Date
Acts 6:1-4, 15:1-22, 20:28-31; 1 Peter 5:1-4	Steve Haney	2/1/2026

This guide is designed to help you reflect on and practice the biblical principles of church leadership and submission discussed in the sermon, "The Roles and Responsibilities of Elders: Prayer, Truth, and Shepherding."

### Day 1: Devotion to Prayer (Acts 6:1-4)

The elders are devoted to "prayer and the ministry of the word." This is their primary work.

- **Reflection:** How often do I specifically pray for my church leadership?
- **Action:** Take five minutes today to pray specifically for each person on your leadership team: for their families, their spiritual strength, their wisdom in making decisions, and their protection from spiritual attack.
- **Scripture to Meditate On:** Acts 6:4 - *"But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."*

### Day 2: Upholding Biblical Truth (Acts 15:1-22)

Elders are called to maintain doctrinal purity and provide discernment, helping the church navigate scriptural disputes.

- **Reflection:** How committed am I to truth? Do I rely solely on the elders for discernment, or am I also diligently studying the Scriptures myself?
- **Action:** Choose a difficult passage or doctrine and commit to a deeper, personal study this week. Pray for your elders' ability to protect the church from teaching that conflicts with the Bible.
- **Scripture to Meditate On:** Acts 15:2 - *"So Paul and Barnabas were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders about this question."* (The foundation of elders as keepers of truth).

### Day 3: Shepherding the Flock (1 Peter 5:1-4, Acts 20:28-31)

The elder is a shepherd: caring for, guarding, and leading the flock by example.

- **Reflection:** How can I make the elders' work a joy, not a burden (Hebrews 13:17)? Am I receptive to their guidance, even when it involves correction or a different direction than I expected?
- **Action:** Think of a specific way you can assist a leader in their shepherding work this week—perhaps by checking in on another member of the congregation or offering practical help.
- **Scripture to Meditate On:** Acts 20:28 - *"Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood."*

## Day 4: Honor and Esteem (1 Timothy 5:17, 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13)

The Bible instructs us to hold our leaders in high regard for their work, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.

- **Reflection:** Do my words and actions toward the elders reflect the honor they deserve for their tireless effort?
- **Action:** Find a tangible, encouraging way to express your gratitude. This could be a brief note, an email of thanks, or a word of appreciation after service. Let them know you recognize their work.
- **Scripture to Meditate On:** 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 - *"We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work."*

## Day 5: Submission and Joy (Hebrews 13:17)

The congregation's duty is to submit to the leadership so that they can carry out their work "with joy and not with grief."

- **Reflection:** Do I respond to decisions with trust and humility, or with questioning and resistance? What attitude do I bring into conversations about church direction?
- **Action:** Identify an area where you may have resisted or questioned a leadership decision in the past. Commit to letting go of that disagreement and trusting their God-given role.
- **Scripture to Meditate On:** Hebrews 13:17 - *"Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you."*