

What's an Elder to Do?

LG Questions for 10/10/10

Getting Started

1. Pretest: Based on your experience at FBC and other churches, describe what elders do in 25 words or less. How closely has their work matched what the Bible says about the role of elders?

Getting Into the Bible

2. Protection. Read Acts 20:28-31. Who do you think Paul is referring to in his warning about “savage wolves”? What are the responsibilities of elders in light of this danger and what skills do they need in order to provide the flock with the protection they need? Explain.

3. Priorities. Read 1 Timothy 5:17-20. What are the two major duties of elders? In what ways is the congregation to encourage them and hold them accountable for this work? Do you think our congregation does this well? What steps can we take to free the elders from tasks that interfere with these priorities?

4. Prayer. Read James 5:13-16. What special powers do the elders have to help the sick and sinning? Have you ever taken advantage of this ministry? If not, will that change given what you've just learned?

Getting Personal and Practical

5. Partnership. Read Hebrews 13:17-18. The relationship between shepherds and sheep is a partnership. Which words stand out to you about the part each side plays in making it a healthy relationship? Apply this truth by praying for or writing a note to an elder you appreciate.