

**Growth Group Discussion Questions
For Our Growth Group- On Line Meetings
Series: Building His Church
“Leading With Strength- Elder Ordination”
Week of October 25th, 2020**

Summary- Our new series is: **Building His Church...** How do we go about that? And especially what adjustments should we make now that COVID is with us and we’re fighting through its affects? All good questions... but we have to begin where Jesus began as He brought His church into existence. Jesus began with **Strong Leadership**. It began with Him as the chief cornerstone of the church. And, on that cornerstone, stands **The Word of God**, the power & presence of the Holy Spirit and then **elders & strong leaders** to care for His church. Jesus appointed Peter the first “Elder” or leader of His church, and every local church that was established had a leadership team composed of elders, appointed by the church planters.

Baycities Lomita has made the planned move to establish an Elder Board. **Larry Bruns** and **Nathan Holmes** have been appointed to join **Pastor Ben Meyers** as our first three elders of our church. But there is much work to be done and I want to inspire you as you consider the questions below about following Jesus and following His leaders through these turbulent times!

1. What stood out to you from the service and message that we shared this past Sunday?

Discovery Questions

2. Look at Matt. 16:16-18. Who does Jesus say is the foundation upon which His church is built? (Hint: Peter- means little stone... (*Greek: Petros*) And upon this rock (*Greek: Petra, bedrock*) I will build my church...)

Q. From Vs. 16-18, what role does Jesus play in building His church?

Q. In verse 19, what role did Jesus give to Peter in building God’s church?

Q. Read 1 Peter 2:24-25. Why is it so important to remember that Jesus is the Chief Shepherd?

3. Look at Acts 14:23 and then at Titus 1:5. Who were Paul and his associates appointing to lead the churches they had started in various locations?

Q. From the sermon on Sunday and the verses we have just looked at, discuss your understanding of what an elder actually does? (Hint: Look at 1 Pet.5:1-4 to help define some of what an elder does)

Going Deeper

4. In the bulletin we placed in it the “Qualifications Of An Elder”, which are taken from 1 Tim 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9, as an insert for you to follow along with as they were discussed in the service.

- a. These qualifications speak of godly character and living that should be found in the life of every elder candidate or growing Christian for that matter. Discuss the following questions:

Q. Read 1 Tim. 3:1-7. Look at the godly character qualities described in those verses. What are ways an adult Christian might grow in these qualities of life? (Hint: look at & discuss these qualities one at a time listed below)

- **He seeks to do a noble thing!**
- **Paul assumes the one desiring to be an elder is a believer & follower of Jesus Christ!**
- **Aspires to the office- desires it, wants to serve!**
- **Has a life that is above reproach- solid in public character qualities**
- **That he is faithful to his wife**
- **Temperate- not addicted to drugs or drink**
- **Respectable**
- **Able to teach- he can make the scriptures understandable & give insight & biblical instruction in a private/public forum.**
- **Not given to drunkenness**
- **Not violent but gentle**
- **Not quarrelsome**
- **Not a lover of money- he is a generous man**
- **He manages his family well**

- **He does it without harshness or too much permissiveness**
- **Not a recent convert- needs some miles of walking w/ Jesus under his belt.**
- **Has a good reputation from outsiders- people outside the church have an unquestioned respect for this man.**

Q. Since these character qualities are so important, discuss ways that we could get these character qualities into the lives of our kids or grandkids? (Hint: consider some of them one at a time)

5. Now that you have read through & gotten familiar with the qualifications and role of elders, answer this question: Why did God give elders to the church? How does God show His grace through the giving of elders?

6. Are there any questions about elders that didn't get answered in your session that you would like to talk about.