










The Elder's Role: Prayer, Holiness, and Leadership



Explore how elder men in the church are called to model prayer, holiness, and leadership to guide and inspire the congregation.



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Introduction

Welcome to this 7-day Bible study on the pivotal role of elder men in the church. The Bible presents elders as spiritual leaders tasked with modeling prayer, holiness, and godly leadership for the entire body of Christ. As mature men, elders carry the responsibility of exemplifying Christ in character and action, setting a high standard for younger men and the church community to follow.

Throughout this study, we will examine Scripture passages that highlight the qualities elders must nurture, focusing on their roles as fervent intercessors, holy examples, and wise shepherds. These traits are not only for personal growth but are foundational to the health and vitality of the local church. Elders lead not by force or power but through humility and service, reflecting Christ's heart.

By engaging deeply with the Scriptures and reflections this week, you will gain insight into how prayer anchors leadership, how holiness fuels influence, and how mature men can faithfully steward the church. Whether you are an elder yourself, preparing for that role, or simply seeking to understand God's plan for men in spiritual leadership, this journey invites you into a powerful biblical vision of the elder's calling.


May this study inspire you to grow in godliness and to lead others well, demonstrating the love and holiness of Christ in every aspect of your life and ministry. Let us begin this path toward faithful elderhood together.





Day 1: Called to Lead by Example



Day 1:  Called to Lead by Example


Your Verse

1 Timothy 3:1-7 – "Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Titus 1:6 – "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."*
- *1 Peter 5:2 – "Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing."*



Day 1:  Called to Lead by Example

Devotional: Leadership Begins with Godly Character


The elder's role begins with God calling men to lead by example, a high and noble task. 1 Timothy 3:1-7 outlines the character qualifications elders must possess. This passage reminds us that an elder's influence flows from integrity, faithfulness in relationships, and a controlled life. Spiritual leadership is not about status, but about embodying Christlike qualities.

In Titus 1:6, Paul specifically points out the importance of an elder's household as a testimony to his character. The family is often the first proving ground of spiritual leadership and discipline. Leaders must demonstrate holiness and responsibility that inspire the church community.

Lastly, 1 Peter 5 exhorts elders to shepherd the flock eagerly and voluntarily, not reluctantly. This shepherding reflects the heart of God for His people.

This foundational day reminds us that elders lead best when their lives align with the gospel, setting the pace for others to follow in prayer, holiness, and leadership.



Day 1:  Called to Lead by Example


Reflect and Apply

1. What areas of your life reflect the qualities described for elders in 1 Timothy 3?

2. How does your family life serve as a testimony of your leadership and faith?

3. In what ways are you currently shepherding others with eagerness and humility?



Day 1:  Called to Lead by Example

Journaling Prompts

1. Write about one area where you sense God calling you to develop greater integrity.

2. List practical ways you can be a better example in your home this week.

3. Reflect on how serving others changes your perspective on leadership.



Day 1: 📖 Called to Lead by Example

Prayer for Today

Lord, on this first day, I pray for the grace to lead according to Your example. Help me pursue holiness in my character and faithfulness in my family. Give me a willing heart to shepherd those You have placed in my care, not out of obligation but out of love. Teach me to reflect Christ in every part of my life. Guide my steps as I seek to live out Your calling faithfully. 🙌🙏✝️





Day 2: 🙏 Modeling a Life of Prayer



Day 2: 🙏 Modeling a Life of Prayer

Your Verse

Acts 6:4 - "But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

Supporting Scriptures

- *1 Thessalonians 5:17 - "Pray continually."*
- *James 5:16 - "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."*



Day 2: 🙏 Modeling a Life of Prayer

Devotional: Prayer: The Elder's Foundation

Elders are called first and foremost to be men of prayer. Acts 6:4 highlights the priority the early church gave to prayer and the ministry of the word. For elders, prayer is not an afterthought but the foundation of leadership.

Paul's directive to "pray continually" in 1 Thessalonians encourages elders to maintain constant communication with God. This ongoing prayerfulness sustains leaders in difficult situations, provides wisdom, and aligns their will with God's purposes.

James 5 reminds believers that the prayers of righteous men – elders included – hold great power and effect. When elders lead in prayer, they intercede for the church's protection, growth, and spiritual health.

Today's devotional challenges elder men to evaluate their prayer life. Is prayer a daily priority that shapes decisions and ministries? Modeling a vibrant prayer life equips the church to trust God's guidance and power through its leaders.



Day 2: 🙏 Modeling a Life of Prayer

Reflect and Apply

1. How consistent and intentional is your prayer life in reality?

2. Do you view prayer as a leadership responsibility or a personal habit?

3. How can you encourage others to join you in prayer for the church?



Day 2: 🙏 Modeling a Life of Prayer

Journaling Prompts

1. Describe your current prayer habits and their impact on your leadership.

2. Set a specific prayer goal to deepen your intercession this week.

3. Write a prayer asking God to strengthen your commitment to pray continually.



Day 2: 🙏 Modeling a Life of Prayer

Prayer for Today

Father, teach me to pray without ceasing and to rely fully on Your Spirit. Help me make prayer the foundation of my leadership, seeking Your guidance in all I do. May my life inspire others to embrace a vibrant prayer walk. Thank You for the power of prayer to change hearts and situations. *Fill me with Your presence and wisdom today.* 🙏🔥📖





Day 3: 🔥 Pursuing Holiness in Daily Life



Day 3: 🔥 Pursuing Holiness in Daily Life

Your Verse

1 Peter 1:15-16 - "But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Hebrews 12:14 - "Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord."*
- *Romans 12:1 - "Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship."*



Day 3: 🔥 Pursuing Holiness in Daily Life

Devotional: Holiness: The Heart of Leadership

Holiness is critical for elders who represent God's standards to the church. 1 Peter 1:15–16 commands believers, especially leaders, to be holy in all aspects of life because God Himself is holy. Elders cannot compartmentalize holiness; it must permeate all actions, words, and attitudes.

Hebrews 12:14 urges believers to pursue peace and holiness diligently. Elders are called to be peace-makers within their congregations, embodying Christ's purity as a witness to the world.

Romans 12 adds that holiness is our true act of worship—offering our whole selves as holy sacrifices. This comprehensive commitment challenges elders to guard against complacency and temptation.

By modeling holiness, elders provide a tangible example for others to emulate, reinforcing the church's call to transformation and spiritual maturity.



Day 3: 🔥 Pursuing Holiness in Daily Life

Reflect and Apply

1. In what ways are you actively pursuing holiness in your daily life?

2. Where do you struggle most to maintain godly standards?

3. How does your example of holiness influence those around you?



Day 3: 🔥 Pursuing Holiness in Daily Life

Journaling Prompts

1. Identify practical changes you can make to grow in holiness.

2. Reflect on how holiness affects your worship and relationships.

3. Write about the blessings or challenges you've experienced in pursuing purity.



Day 3: 🔥 Pursuing Holiness in Daily Life

Prayer for Today

Holy God, transform me to reflect Your purity and love fully. Help me walk in holiness daily, showing others what it means to serve You wholeheartedly. Guard my heart against temptation and complacency. May my life glorify You as an example to the church. *Empower me to live as Your holy servant today.*





Day 4: 🛡️ Leading with Wisdom and Humility



Day 4:  Leading with Wisdom and Humility

Your Verse

James 3:17 – "But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Proverbs 11:2 – "When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom."*
- *Philippians 2:3-4 – "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves."*



Day 4:  Leading with Wisdom and Humility

Devotional: Wisdom Rooted in Humility

Leadership in the church demands godly wisdom and humble hearts. James 3:17 describes heavenly wisdom as pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, merciful, and sincere. Elders ruling the church must exemplify these qualities to lead effectively and honorably.

Proverbs teaches a direct link between humility and wisdom, warning of the downfall pride brings. Leaders who cling to pride risk damaging relationships and losing influence.

Paul's encouragement to value others above ourselves in Philippians 2 further paints a picture of servant leadership—key for elders shepherding God's flock.

Today challenges elder men to seek wisdom that flows from God and leadership marked by humility, putting others' needs before personal ambition.



Day 4:  Leading with Wisdom and Humility

Reflect and Apply

1. How do pride and humility shape your leadership style?

2. Where in your leadership could you become more servant-hearted?

3. What steps can you take to pursue godly wisdom daily?



Day 4:  Leading with Wisdom and Humility

Journaling Prompts

1. Write a recent example when humility led to wisdom in your decisions.

2. List areas where pride may be a challenge and plan to surrender them.

3. Reflect on how caring for others first impacts your leadership.



Day 4: 🛡️ Leading with Wisdom and Humility

Prayer for Today

Lord, bless me with Your wisdom and a humble heart. Keep pride from clouding my judgment. Help me lead with peace, mercy, and sincerity, valuing others above myself. Let my decisions reflect Your truth and love.
Guide me to be a wise and humble elder in Your church. 🙏 🧠 💡





Day 5: 🐑 Shepherd God's Flock



Day 5: 🐑 Shepherding God's Flock

Your Verse

1 Peter 5:2-3 - "Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them... not because you must, but because you are willing."

Supporting Scriptures

- *John 21:16 - "Take care of my sheep."*
- *Ephesians 4:11-12 - "So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service."*



Day 5: 🐑 Shepherding God's Flock

Devotional: Shepherding With Willing Hearts

Elders serve as shepherds entrusted with caring deeply for God's people. 1 Peter 5:2 urges shepherds to serve willingly and eagerly, not out of compulsion or for personal gain.

Jesus' instruction in John 21 to Peter to "take care of my sheep" underscores the sacredness of spiritual oversight. Eldership includes nurturing, protecting, and guiding the flock toward spiritual maturity.

Paul's words in Ephesians 4 affirm that elders equip believers for service, promoting unity and growth in the body.

Shepherding demands love, patience, and vigilance. It's a holy calling to watch over others and lead toward Christ.



Day 5: 🐑 Shepherding God's Flock

Reflect and Apply

1. Do you lead with a willing and joyful heart, or out of obligation?

2. How do you nurture and equip others in your church community?

3. What can you improve in your care and guidance of God's people?



Day 5: 🐑 Shepherding God's Flock

Journaling Prompts

1. Recall a time you felt especially called to shepherd someone spiritually.

2. Write about how you can serve the church more willingly and joyfully.

3. List ways you can help equip others for service this week.



Day 5: 🐑👤 Shepherding God's Flock

Prayer for Today

Gracious Shepherd, fill me with willingness and joy as I care for Your flock. Teach me to lead with love, patience, and vigilance. Help me equip others for Your service, guiding them closer to You. May I never grow weary or burdened but serve wholeheartedly. *Use me as a faithful shepherd in Your church.* 🐑 🏛️ 🙏





Day 6: ✨ Exemplifying Integrity and Accountability



Your Verse

Hebrews 13:17 - "Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority... They keep watch over you as those who must give an account."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Proverbs 27:17 - "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."*
- *Galatians 6:1 - "Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently."*



Day 6: ✨ Exemplifying Integrity and Accountability

Devotional: Integrity and Care in Leadership

Integrity and accountability define an elder's leadership. Hebrews 13:17 reminds elders that they are accountable to God for the souls they lead. This responsibility calls for transparent living and constant self-examination.

Proverbs 27:17 highlights the value of mutual encouragement and correction among believers. Elders must cultivate relationships that sharpen and restore one another and the congregation.

Galatians 6 stresses restoring sinners gently, illustrating elders' role in correction with grace and careful love.

Exemplifying integrity invites trust, and embracing accountability ensures elders pursue growth and holiness continually.



Reflect and Apply

1. How do you maintain integrity in your leadership and personal life?

2. Are you open to accountability and correction from others?

3. How do you balance correction and grace when guiding others?



Journaling Prompts

1. Write about an accountability relationship that helped you grow.

2. Reflect on how you handle correction or criticism in leadership.

3. Plan ways to build trust through transparent and consistent living.



Day 6: ✨ Exemplifying Integrity and Accountability

Prayer for Today

Father, help me lead with integrity and welcome accountability. Keep my heart humble and open to correction. Empower me to gently restore others with love. May I honor You in all my ways and lead with transparency and faithfulness. *Thank You for guiding me in this sacred responsibility.* 🙏👤👉





Day 7: 🏆 Finishing Well with Endurance



Day 7: 🏆 Finishing Well with Endurance

Your Verse

2 Timothy 4:7 - "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Galatians 6:9 - "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest."*
- *Hebrews 12:1 - "Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."*



Devotional: Persevering to the End

Elders are called to endure through challenges and finish strong in their spiritual race. Paul's words in 2 Timothy 4:7 serve as a powerful testimony for elder men to fight the good fight and remain faithful.

Galatians 6 encourages believers not to grow weary in doing good.

Perseverance is essential, especially in leadership, as trials and opposition will come.

Hebrews 12 calls for running the race with endurance, keeping eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith.

This final day encourages elders to commit to lifelong faithfulness, sustained by prayer, holiness, wisdom, and love. Finishing well is a legacy of faithful elderhood.



Day 7: 🏆 Finishing Well with Endurance

Reflect and Apply

1. What challenges have tested your endurance in leadership?

2. How do you stay motivated to continue serving faithfully?

3. What legacy do you wish to leave as an elder in the church?



Day 7: 🏆 Finishing Well with Endurance

Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a moment you felt encouraged to persevere in faith.

2. Set a spiritual goal to maintain endurance in your role as a leader.

3. Reflect on the impact you want your leadership to have on others.



Day 7: 🏆 Finishing Well with Endurance

Prayer for Today

Lord, grant me strength to persevere till the end. Help me fight the good fight and keep the faith despite hardships. Encourage me to remain faithful in prayer, holiness, and loving leadership. May my life glorify You and inspire future generations. *Thank You for Your sustaining grace.* 🏆 ✝️ 💪 🙏





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