

WEEKLY REFLECTION

Navigating these complex times as a simple gathering is not easy. Three years in, we've still got so much to figure out. And so much of that is on me (James), as the shepherd of the flock. Reminded that the spiritual progress of a people rarely advances beyond that of its leader, I see this as a tremendous responsibility that I'm both grateful for and weary of, especially as I know my own limitations.

This is why I've hung so tightly onto the passage of 1 Peter 5:1-11. He's pouring courage into his fellow elders to remind that there's often no glory without suffering. It's the role of the undershepherd to point the sheep to the Chief Shepherd, who will return. In the meantime, we must continue to lead through example and humility, to surrender pride and anxiety and recognise there is an enemy that is trying to prey on the weak and devour those who are alone. Yet our ability to defeat him does not depend on the level of our faith, but on the One who we put our faith in.

The Lord is our shepherd. The one who feeds, guides, protects and loves us. To the point where in the greatest act of love and the most powerful example of humility, emptied himself and laid down His own life for us. May all of us who are called to lead, first follow His lead.

QUESTIONS

QUESTION ONE:

Looking back over this journey of building community throughout the 3 years, what particular moments, conversations, or relationships in our church family stand out most clearly to you and still warm your heart when you reflect on them?

QUESTION TWO:

We all need regular reminders of our core purpose: to walk daily in the ways of Jesus, to know Him, and to enjoy Him. In what simple, everyday ways have you sensed God gently inviting you into a deeper experience of knowing and enjoying Christ over this past season, and how has that invitation shaped your ordinary days?

QUESTION THREE:

True ministry flows out of genuine love for Christ, caring for the flock voluntarily and eagerly—never for compulsion, title, or personal gain—while guiding others through a living example rather than control. How might this call to serve one another with humble willingness, rather than seeking recognition or influence, reshape the way you currently serve, relate to others, or respond when opportunities to lead or support arise in our community?

QUESTION FOUR:

Jesus is our Chief Shepherd, and after we have suffered a little while, God will restore, strengthen, and establish us. Where in your life right now do you most need to cast your anxieties on Him, humble yourself under His mighty hand, and trust that promise of restoration?