

Part 5: Be the Church

### What are we known for and why does it matter?

#### 1 Peter 4

- <sup>7</sup> The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. <sup>8</sup> Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.
- <sup>9</sup> Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. <sup>10</sup> Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.
- <sup>11</sup> If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

#### 1 Peter 5

<sup>1</sup> To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: <sup>2</sup> Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; <sup>3</sup> not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. <sup>4</sup> And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

<sup>5</sup> In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." <sup>6</sup> Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. <sup>7</sup> Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

# **TODAY'S TRUTH**

Your church will be known for what you are known for.

# **Group Guide**

### Introduction

Anyone can go to church. Going is the easy part. It's being the church that many people struggle with. Going to church on Sunday without being the church during the week is a big problem. Because what we are known for is what our church will be known for too.

#### **Discuss**

What do you think our church is known for in the community? Why? What do you think you are known for?

# Read 1 Peter 4:7-8

How can we stay alert and keep a sober mind? In what ways can we show love to those who are in sin?

### Read 1 Peter 4:9-11

Why do we need to be told to offer hospitality without grumbling? What is your gift? How can you use your gift to serve others?

### Read 1 Peter 5:1-4

According to this passage, what are church leaders required to do? How can we help and encourage our church leaders?

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