

PERSEVERE WITH PETER

LIFE GROUP MATERIAL

Meeting **THEME: Why pride leads to problems**

Prepare yourself. Pray for your Life Group's meeting. Read I Peter 5.

20.00 – 20.10 Start Today we will think about 'pride'. The first time we see pride in the Bible is when Adam and Eve were in the garden. God had spoken His Word to them and they needed to rely on His Word to know what was good and bad. God sees what is good and bad. And man should humbly listen to Him and accept what He says. But in the garden man was tempted not to listen to what God had said, but to think of themselves as persons able to decide for themselves – drawing their own conclusions, based on what they heard and saw (of course taking into consideration what God's Word had said, but not as authoritative). That is what the Bible calls pride – and condemns – because it leads to problems.

- We can all at times be tempted to disagree with what the Bible recommends as good or prohibits as bad. Can you give examples wherein you have struggled with this, or are struggling with this?

20.10 – 20.15 Pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and build you up when you listen to God's Word

20.15 – 20.40 Bible passage: Read I Peter 5

Look again at 5:1-5

- Last week's theme was suffering. How does this passage about shepherding logically follow that theme?
- Look at the way the elders should shepherd. How could they be tempted not to do it that way?
- Elders and those who are younger (the church-members) should be humble. They should see that, like once Adam and Eve were tempted, members of the church can be tempted, especially under difficult circumstances. Therefore, they should shepherd – which implies: speak words of God – and receive shepherding. Can you give an example of a time that you experienced this yourself?

Look again at 5:6-7

- The NIV translates 'Cast', the ESV translates 'Casting'. What is the difference? (Hint: it is all about the question: 'who is the god that takes care?')

Look again at 5:8-13

- Should we be afraid of the devil?

20.40 – 20.50 Digging deeper

Pride leads to problems. Because we have innate pride, we can be tempted to go astray as Christians. So, elders need to shepherd God's church. And we need to receive and welcome such shepherding, rather than staying on ourselves, not committed to a church and to membership. Pride leads to problems. When we believe we are God, then we get anxious in certain situations, because we feel we can't take care of ourselves – but we believe no one else will or can do so. But when we humbly admit that God is God, then we can cast our anxieties on Him. Pride leads to problems. Whoever is pride, might be tempted to think he or she can handle everything by him-/herself. And then you could easily become a prey of the devil. So, humility goes together with a) care of God's church, b) carelessness, c) careful living. Peter has had to learn this in his own life – as you may remember. Take some moments of silence. Where did or do you have to learn this lesson?

20.50 – 21.00 End the Life Group meeting with praying together.