**Faith to Shepherd; Faith to Stand**

**Sermon Based Discussion (June 5, 2016)**

**Living Out Faith (1 Peter, part 3), Message 3**

**WARM UP**

1. If you had a problem, are you more likely to seek out help and ask for it? Or, are you more likely to not ask for help and deal with it yourselves? Share examples.

*Sometimes when we have problems, we tend to ask help more often or more quickly. Other times, we may choose to not ask help. We’ll decide to suffer or struggle on our own. While it may seem virtuous to not ask for help, the Bible teaches that calling out to God when we are struggling is a good thing. In fact, God commands us to seek Him out for help, especially when we are suffering. But that help may not come in the form or removing the suffering. Sometimes, God helps us not* out *of the suffering, but* through *the suffering.*

*In our final session on 1 Peter, we will consider how God uses suffering and hardship to strengthen the faith of Christians.*

**INTO THE BIBLE (Read 1 Peter 5:1-14)**

1. What are the principles Peter gives for how elders should shepherd God’s flock?
2. Why does Peter seem to emphasize in verse 9 that Christians in other places are going through the “same kinds” of suffering as we might go through?

**UNDERSTANDING**

1. How does casting our anxieties on God make us humble ourselves under God’s mighty hand?
2. What does it mean that God will exalt (or lift) us up at the “proper time”?
3. Is it right or wrong for a leader to be motivated by reward?

**DIFFERENCE**

1. Think of any suffering or hardships you have face in your life. Has anyone ever been encouraged by your struggles? Share about it.
2. How has this Scripture challenged or challenged your view on any topic such as leadership, suffering, prayer, etc.?

**APPLICATION**

1. What is one way you can practically learn about the sufferings of Christians in other places? Will you spend some time this week researching and bringing back at least one story of Christians suffering?