

Small Group Discussion Guide – Read Hebrews 13:7-19

- Reflect on a leader or pastor, past or present, who has significantly impacted your spiritual life. What aspects of their life and faith have you sought to imitate in your walk with Christ?
- Given the context of this letter and the call for persevering faith, why might the author of Hebrews encourage struggling Christians to remember their leaders? How can this encouragement apply to us in times of trial?
- In verse 7, how do we see a biblical model of discipleship? What does discipleship involve, and how can we sometimes overcomplicate it? (*observing someone's life and imitating them*) Would you say our church is strong or weak in discipleship, and how could we grow in this area?
- What does it mean to obey and submit to your leaders? What does it not mean? What qualifications and responsibilities are mentioned in this command, both for leaders and members?
- Are there challenges you face in submitting to leadership? How can you cultivate a spirit of submission, especially when it's difficult?
- According to vs. 17, what is the main duty of a pastor? Why do our souls need someone "keeping watch" over them? (see Hebrews 2:1; 3:12-13; 5:11-14; 10:24-26) Do you recognize this need in your own life? How is this worked out in the life of a church? How are faithful and godly pastors a gift of God's preserving and persevering grace in your life?
- How can you encourage your elders and make their work more joyful? How can we specifically pray for them and for ourselves based on this passage?