

LESSON 8

OLD-TIMERS AND SPRING CHICKENS

1 PETER 5:1–14



1 Why might an employer want to hire a person with extensive experience?

2 Why might an employer want to hire a young person with little or no experience?



Read 1 Peter 5:1–14 and the following notes:

☐ 5:1 ☐ 5:1, 2 ☐ 5:2–5 ☐ 5:5

3 How can older Christians best look out for the church's well-being (5:1–4)?

4 How can younger Christians help older ones lead (5:5)?

5 Why is it important for both older and younger Christians to be humble toward one another (5:5, 6)?

Generation gaps have always been with us. This was true in the early church as well, where the older ones—the “elders”—held authority. Peter instructed the elders to serve, rather than overpower, the younger ones. Likewise, he told the younger Christians to respect the authority of the elders. And he told all to have humility toward one another. Younger Christians need the advice, counsel, and wisdom that older Christians can provide. And older Christians, especially those in formal positions of leadership, need the support and respect of younger Christians. Everybody gains when they respect one another.



6 How does God use older Christians to meet the needs of the church body?

7 For whom can you set an example in your church?



8 How can you set an example for those who are younger in your church?

9 What elders or older believers do you look up to?

10 Who are your elders, and what are your responsibilities toward them?

11 What older Christian can you turn to for advice and counsel this week about a problem you may be facing?



12 With what young Christian can you share a recent lesson you've learned? What do you want to share with him/her?

A Why is it important to be humble (5:5)? What is the difference between true humility and false humility? In what situations do you struggle against being humble? What would help you be humble toward others?

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B Why should we give our worries to the Lord (5:7)? What do you tend to worry about? What practical steps could you take to place those worries in God's hands?

C When does Satan attack us (5:8, 9)? When do you especially need to be on guard?

D What promise has God made to those who suffer (5:10)? To whom could you bring this promise as an encouragement?