

Community Group Discussion Questions

Opening Question: *What do you think makes a good leader?*

Tell them: This week we looked at Psalm 131 and asked what makes a godly leader as Adam Ulm was ordained as our new elder. The author of Psalm 131 was David, a man called by God to lead the nation of Israel. He was anointed as king while still a shepherd and then hated by the king he would one day replace.

Tell them: Let's take a look at Psalm 131 again.

Read together again:

*"O Lord, my heart is **not proud, nor do I have a haughty look. I do not have great aspirations or concern myself with things that are beyond me. Indeed, I am composed and quiet, like a young child carried by its mother; I am content like the young child I carry. O Israel, hope in the Lord now and forevermore!"** (Psalm 131:1-3)*

Ask them: *What do we learn about godly leadership from David in this passage?*

Ask them: *How is this kind of leader different from the average politician?*

Tell them: Pastor Michael answered the question, "What does God expect of a godly leader?"

He said God expects a godly leader:

1. **To be grounded:** **Ask them:** *What do you think it means to a grounded leader?*

Tell them: The opposite of being 'grounded' is being proud or arrogant. Pride declares its independence from God and acts in disobedience for the sake of self, self-promotion, self-satisfaction, selfishness. Pride is the foundation of every sin.

It's the start of it all. Pride says it's all about me, my peace, my dreams, my needs, my goals, etc.

Ask them: *Considering being grounded to be the opposite of being prideful, how would you now describe being grounded?*

Ask them: *How does being grounded rather than prideful apply to leading your family, kids or friends?*

Ask them: *What are the dangers of being someone who wants to climb the ladder of success?*

2. **To be surrendered:** When we are surrendered to the Lord, we are calm and quiet. We have no need to panic, worry, or get busy being busy because we have surrendered our future to the Father.

Ask them: *How can our need to provide for ourselves and others interfere with this calmness?*

Ask them: *What is the danger of busyness?*

Ask them: *How could we be calmer and quieter?*

Tell them: It takes trust in order to surrender. Believers are tasked with surrendering to many circumstances: the giving up of freedom from time to time, living in isolation, social distancing, etc.

Ask them: *What circumstances have you had to surrender to in the past 12 months and how have you done?*

3. **To be visioned:** When most people say they have a "vision" for the future, they mean they have a plan, a dream, a hope they are working towards, but Pastor Michael said that *to be visioned* is to hope in the Lord, rather than to have your own plan or idea of how the future should look.

Ask them: *What do you think about that idea?*

Tell them: Michael said a godly leader lifts peoples' eyes up to where our true hope lies, in the Lord.

Ask them: *What kinds of things and people do we tend to hope in, in our lives, in our country, in our time, rather than the Lord?*

Ask them: *How is that different than hoping in the Lord?*

If time allows, you might want to look at these verses on hoping in the Lord. Discuss ways we put our hope in the Lord: *"You are my hiding place and my shield. I find hope in your word."* (Psalm 119:114) (Hope in His word)

"Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love," (Psalm 33:18) (Hope in His steadfast love)

"But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him." (Lamentations 3:21–25) (Hope in his love, mercy, faithfulness)

"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us." (Romans 8:18) (heaven)

Ask them: *What does this kind of hope do to our pride, our vision of the future and our surrender?*

Encourage the group to pray for unity in our country, for peace in countries in turmoil and for surrender to God within the church.