

*Sam opened by noting we sometimes assume certain traits – nurturing, leading, strength, tenderness – belong more to one gender than another. Where have you seen that assumption play out, in yourself or around you?*

*In Acts 20:35 Paul quotes Jesus: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Is that something you actually believe deep down? Why or why not?*

*Paul knew he was probably seeing these elders for the last time (Acts 20:25, 38). When you've had a "last goodbye" – a graduation, a move, a death – what tends to come to the surface in those moments?*

*"Where God has called you to love, there God has called you to lead." Name one specific person or situation this week where that sentence asks something concrete of you. What's the next step?*

*In Acts 20:27 Paul says, "I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God." What do you think it costs someone to tell people the truth they need to hear, even when it's uncomfortable?*

*Acts 20:28 grounds the elders' work in the fact that the church was "obtained with [Christ's] own blood." How should the cross change the way you carry responsibility for the people God has put in your life?*