***STUDY GUIDE***

***“Things Your Pastor Would Love to Say…(But Can’t).”***

**Chapter One: Why He Lacks Transparency**

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**Questions for Group Discussion:**

1. **Read James 4:10. Leaders often lack transparency. Do you think this is due to pride? Why or why not?**
2. **What other factors lead to a lack of transparency/openness? How have you dealt with these?**
3. **In the Introduction to the book, Pastor Joel says that “silence” is the primary cause of so many leaving the ministry each year. Do you agree?**
4. **How can a church help its pastor become more transparent? What actions will you personally take to facilitate this?**
5. ***How would we define “TMI” or set healthy boundaries for sharing?***
6. ***What benefits of healthy transparency have you witnessed?***

**Chapter Two: He Sees Your Failures as His Own**

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**Questions for Group Discussion:**

1. ***Why do pastors feel they’ve failed when we sin?***
2. ***How can we help our pastor through this?***
3. ***What are some areas where we can improve so our pastor won’t feel this way as often?***

**Chapter Three: He’s Not God!**

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**Questions for Group Discussion:**

1. ***James 3:1 tells us that teachers of the Word are under greater scrutiny. What does and/or doesn’t this mean?***
2. ***In what ways to people act like their pastor is omniscient?***
3. ***“ “ “ “ “ “ “ “” “” should be omnipresent?***
4. ***How can we help pastors from trying to be omnipotent?***

**Chapter Four: His Wife Isn’t Cheap Labor**

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**Questions for Group Discussion:**

1. ***What do most people think the role of a pastor’s wife should be?***
2. ***What are some ways you’ve seen a pastor’s wife bless/help the church?***
3. ***How can we make a pastor’s wife feel loved and supported?***

**Chapter Five: His Kids Aren’t Perfect**

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**Questions for Group Discussion:**

1. ***What do people think of when they hear that a child is a “preacher’s kid (PK)?”***
2. ***Are these stereotypes fair or unfair? Why or why not?***
3. ***In your own words, how should a pastor’s child be treated?***

**Chapter Six: He’s Not Wealthy \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Questions for Group Discussion:**

1. ***Do you think most people assume pastors make a lot of money?***
2. ***How many hours per week do pastor’s typically work?***
3. ***What is a fair wage for a Senior Pastor? How would you determine that?***

**Chapter Seven: He Will Carry Your Burdens**

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**Questions for Group Discussion:**

1. ***Would you rather have a pastor who grieves with you when you suffer loss or one who is a “strong silent” leader?***
2. ***How do you think most pastor’s deal with loss or trials they see in the congregation?***
3. ***What can be done to help pastors grieve or heal from the wounds they carry on behalf of their “flock?”***

**Chapter Eight: He Needs Encouragement Too**

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**Questions for Group Discussion:**

1. ***A preacher once said, “Encouragement must be encouraging to the person being encouraged.” What do you think this means?***
2. ***What are some ways to encourage your pastor?***
3. ***What are some things YOU find encouraging personally?***

**Chapter Nine: Like It or Not, He Has Authority**

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**Questions for Group Discussion:**

1. ***What comes to mind when you hear the title of this chapter?***
2. ***How would you define healthy versus unhealthy views of pastoral authority?***
3. ***How can we support a pastor’s use of biblical/healthy authority?***

**Chapter Ten: YOU Are Your Own Worst Enemy!**

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**Questions for Group Discussion:**

1. ***In your opinion, what percentage of problems/trials we experience are self-inflicted?***
2. ***What are some habits that can create ongoing or repetitive problems?***
3. ***How do our repeated mistakes affect our pastors? Is this similar to watching our kids make bad choices and suffer the consequences?***

**Chapter Eleven: He MUST Obey Christ**

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**Questions for Group Discussion:**

1. ***What are some examples of how a pastor has to obey Christ and preach or follow scripture when it may not be popular in our society or even in the church?***
2. ***Would you be comfortable supporting your pastor who is following his conscience re. the Lord’s leading, even if you disagree with him on the issue? Why or why not? Are there limits to this?***
3. ***How does Acts 17:10-12 impact your support for your pastor?***

**Chapter Twelve: Focus on the Main Things**

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**Questions for Group Discussion:**

1. ***What would you consider to be the primary doctrines that define true Christianity?***
2. ***What does it mean for something to be “a main thing” in scripture? How about “a plain thing?”***
3. ***Have you witnessed churches dividing over things that weren’t “main and plain?” What SHOULD have been their focus instead?***

**Chapter Thirteen: The Grass ISN’T Always Greener!**

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**Questions for Group Discussion:**

1. ***When people “church hop,” what are some of the things they focus on or look for?***
2. ***What SHOULD be our focus when looking for a new church?***
3. ***What SHOULD matter most in finding a pastor who might lead a church?***

**Chapter Fourteen: Getting Help**

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**Questions for Group Discussion:**

1. ***What are some things you can do right now to help your pastor feel more supported/loved?***
2. ***What are some ways you’ve seen pastors supported or encouraged in the past?***
3. ***What might an organization like Standing Stone do to help your church at this time?***