

A Book Review for individual and or small group reflection.

Elder's Rising: The Promise and Peril of Aging by: Roland D. Martinson

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Session 4

As we continue to read "*Elder's Rising, The Promise and Peril of Aging*," we should be uplifted by the suggestions it offers for shepherding others. There are testimony's in this book of great value. The author, Roland Martinson, meaningfully and passionately focuses on the importance of engaging people in all aspects of community, and faith.

Martinson highlights the gifts we bring to everyday life, more importantly, the way we respond to life. As Martinson put's it, the way we respond to life is rooted in the ancient characteristic of "wisdom." Martinson says it this way, "These characteristics include being centered in a firsthand relationship with God; knowing and enacting moral behavior; humbly and courageously doing the right thing in the messiness of life; interpreting present events, ideas, and actions in the light of the big picture and long view; and reflecting critically on and learning from the past, especially from mistakes, and investing these learnings in the enhancement of the present and future. We've discovered that this powerful wisdom of elders ancient and modern is most often anchored in vital faith, is lived in response to God's gift of life and promises, and is embodied in everyday life." (Martinson 156)

This quote speaks with such depth and wisdom. It has the depth of God's love for us within it. Beneath the surface of this quote are God's commands to lead us (1). We have been given "wisdom" to live life fully in all circumstances, young and old, active and less active. We have been given the ability to adapt and overcome the troubles that come into our lives. And what's more, we have been given this ability to help each other. We are people made for relationships in our homes, in our churches and in our communities. We can "invest our learnings" "our wisdom" in so many wonderful ways (2).

In the sessions to come we'll explore some ways that we can use our wisdom to its fullest. We should never assume that we are 'done' because we have grown older. We are rising and there is much to be done. Your experience and expertise can help sustain and build the church (3).

1. How do you hear God's commands in this quote?
2. Which ways can you imagine how you can help your family and here at Saint Peter and our community?
3. What experiences do you have that can help sustain and build the church?