

Caregivers Group Training session # 2

Welcome

Prayer

Last session: We spoke of the reason for why we have a Caregivers group and the biblical basis behind caregiving, especially as it applies to our responsibility as ministers of the gospel of Jesus Christ. This week we will look at some practical guidelines to use in caregiving.

Practical Guidelines for Caregiving

- When you will be dispatched and by whom (if such a system is actually in place)
- Dress casually but nicely for in-home visits (if this suits your culture)
- Look for opportunities to take someone with you at times for training (verify with leader)
- Pray beforehand: Perhaps use Col. 3:12, 14, 16-17, 23-24 as a guideline
- Limit your visit time (between 15 min. to 1 hour) - be cautious about what expectancy you create
- Ask about family - this matter is almost always close to heart
- Don't focus on yourself or your own story
 - However, do tell about how God is ministering to you when helpful or when asked, but remember that this is not about you (1 Pet. 3:15)
- Ask how you may serve/help them (sometimes just very small, practical things)
- What services can you or the church provide/refer for them (Jas. 2:14-15) - be a resource, but not a crutch
- Always remain sensitive to the Holy Spirit concerning what to say and what not to say
 - Trust God to give you the right words (Matt. 10:19-20)
 - Don't give pat answers like "Just have faith"
- Do your best to listen (Jas. 1:19) - very few people want your advice or theology; they want to tell their story
- Don't treat others based on your estimation of them (Jas. 2:1-9, 12-13)
- Be positive and uplifting (Phil. 4:8; Col. 4:6)
- Always plan on being an encouragement (1 Th. 5:11; Heb. 10:24-25)
 - Remember that we are proclaiming the kingdom's rule
- Always point people to Christ, who is their only help (2 Co. 4:5)
- Don't try to be a "minister," just be yourself and be authentic
- Never entertain gossip or get into spiritual debates (Jas. 3:9-10; 4:11-12; Titus 3:9-10)
- Be prepared to read Scripture or sing songs when asked or helpful (Eph. 5:19)
 - Perhaps you would want to take a tape or recording of a sermon
 - Sometimes nice to take a magazine or other little treat
- Discuss serving communion (Matt. 26:26-29; 1 Co. 11:23-29)
- Always pray with them before you leave
 - Ask them what things, don't assume you know
 - Pray for them (1 Tim. 2:1) - intercession

- You may want to kindly ask others to leave the room if dealing with sensitive or spiritual matters (whether the others are “friendly” to the conversation or not)
- Make a record of your visit
- Wash hands before and after visit (if sick, perhaps you should not visit or at least ask first)
- Be prepared to discuss issues with your leader and/or in group

Specific to hospital visits:

You may need a badge

Be sensitive to visiting hours

Limit visits to about 15 min. – usually people are tired; interfering w/ nursing duties

What other methods or hints have you found are helpful for visiting?

Remember that you are not Hospice, who provides care until death, but you are ministers of the gospel, calling people to life.

Closing: Heb. 13:20-21