

Ministry Leaders Training | November 10, 2024

## Caring for One Another

### Guide Growth

- Associate Pastor of Youth & Outreach
- Church Planting Vision

### Maintain Health

- Leadership Development
- Christian Discipleship
- Caring for One Another

“We were meant to walk side by side, an interdependent body of weak people. God is pleased to grow and change us through the help of people who have been recreated in Christ and empowered by the Spirit. That is how life in the church works.” - Side by Side, p. 12

- I. Take time to understand.
- II. Process the emotions of the heart.
- III. Face suffering with faith.
- IV. Think in biblical categories.
- V. Distinguish between sin and foolishness.
- VI. Assess the next steps.

# I. Take time to understand.

## 1. We are needy people.

"Jesus introduced a new era in which weakness is the new strength. Anything that reminds us that we are dependent on God and other people is a good thing." - Side by Side, p. 12

**Hebrew 4:16** - *"Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."*

## 2. You have a role.

**1 Thessalonians 5:14** - *"And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all."*

## 3. Be attentive and take initiative.

**1 John 4:19** - *"We love because he first loved us."*

"God moves toward people; we move toward people. He moves toward people who seek him and people who do not; we move toward those who want help and those who seem distant and marginalized. He moves toward friends and even enemies; we move out beyond our circle of friends to those far beyond that circle." p. 74

## 4. Relate with compassion.

**Colossians 3:12** - *"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience..."*

## 5. Speak simple, encouraging truth.

**Philippians 2:20-21** - *"For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ."*

## II. Process the emotions of the heart.

### Emotions in the story of redemption

1. Creation: God created us with emotions.
2. Fall: However, like all other good gifts, emotions are subject to the Fall.
3. Redemption: The Gospel helps us to make sense of our tangled emotions.

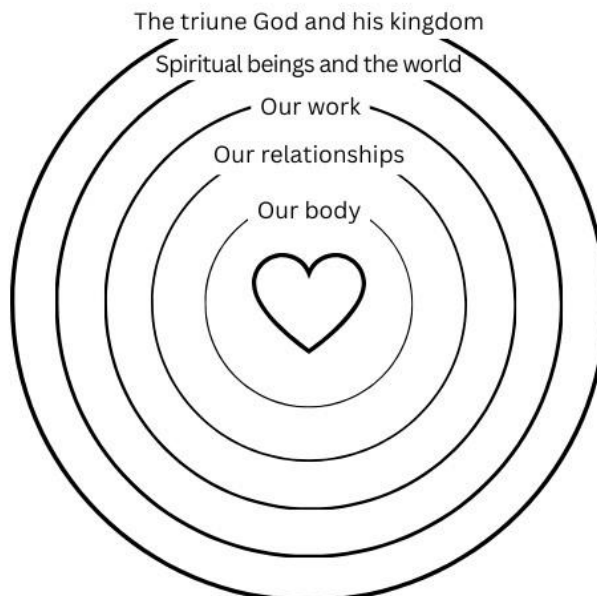
### Understanding our emotions

1. Identify the emotion
2. Examine the emotion
3. Engage the emotion
4. Act in control of the emotion

**Psalms 62:8** - *"Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us."*

**Proverbs 20:5** - *"The purpose in a man's heart is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out."*

### Critical Influences of the Heart, p. 18



## III. Face suffering with faith.

### Faithful responses to our problems

1. We commit to trusting in the Lord in the midst of our problems.
2. We remember and receive God's manna for today.
3. We wait and hope in the Lord.
4. We speak to the Lord and we speak to others.

### Understanding suffering as the wilderness

**Deuteronomy 8:15** - *"He led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water..."*

#### Who God is in their wilderness

1. God provides what we need.
2. God is with us.
3. God will instruct us as we go.
4. God provides deliverance to those who trust him.

#### Who Jesus is in their wilderness

1. Jesus is with you, he knows the wilderness and the way through it.
2. In the wilderness, Jesus himself is your manna.
3. Jesus perfectly followed God's instructions.
4. Jesus is the Mediator God provided to us in our wilderness experiences.

**1 Timothy 2:5** - *"For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."*

**Hebrews 7:25** - *"Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them."*

## IV. Think in Biblical Categories

**Romans 12:2** - *"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."*

**Acts 3:6** - *"But Peter said, 'I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!'"*

### Remember our place in the overarching Story of Scripture

- Creation - Fall - Redemption - New Creation
- We need to remember our context and help people remember it as well. Sometimes we need to help people remember where we are in the story.

### The Language of Scripture

- Sin, redemption, justify, sanctify, repentance, righteousness, transgression, law, wrath, adoption, glory, holiness, purity, etc.

### Biblical Stories that Connect

- *I'm wandering aimless* (the Exodus)
- *I'm suffering and don't know why* (Job, John 9 - man born Blind)
- *I'm lonely* (Adam, Jeremiah, Elijah, Jesus)
- *I'm anxious* (Elijah, Jehosaphat, David, Jesus)
- *I've sinned and need forgiveness* (David - 2 Sam 11-12; Peter - Jn 21:15-19)
- *I'm struggling with sickness* (Paul's thorn in the side)
- *I'm facing death* (Paul - 2 Timothy, Jesus - Garden of Gethsemane)
- *I've lost a loved one* (Ruth & Naomi, David, Mary & Martha)

### Biblical Expression in the Psalms

- Lament - 6, 12, 13, 44
- Celebration - 18, 19, 20, 34, 40, 100,
- Dealing with Enemies - 6, 23, 27, 37, 54, 56
- Comfort under Afflictions - 23, 37, 86, 94, 102
- Doubt/Complaints - 10, 13, 42, 79
- Dedication - 15, 85, 89, 121, 94
- Repentance - 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, 143

## V. Distinguish Between Sin & Foolishness

**Proverbs 13:20** – *“Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.”*

**Galatians 6:1** – *“Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.”*

### Sin & Foolishness

#### Ten Key Lessons on Wisdom

**1. Fear the Lord (Fear):** Proverbs 9:10 – *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.”* (see also Prov. 1:7)

**2. Get Wisdom (Wisdom):** Proverbs 4:7 – *“The beginning of wisdom is this: get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight.”*

**3. Get Knowledge (Knowledge):** Proverbs 23:12 – *“Apply your heart to instruction and your ear to words of knowledge.”* (see also Prov. 10:14, 18:15)

**4. Be Humble (Humility):** Proverbs 18:2 – *“A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.”* (see also Prov. 3:7, 15:32)

**5. Slow down and think it through (Prudence):** Proverbs 14:15-16 – *“The simple believes everything, but the prudent gives thought to his steps. One who is wise is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is reckless and careless.”*

**6. Choose your associations carefully (Associations)** Proverbs 13:20 – *“Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.”* (see also Psalm 1)

**7. Watch your mouth (Guard your Mouth):** Proverbs 17:27-28 – *“Whoever restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.”* (see also Prov. 10:19)

**8. Do what is right (Integrity):** Proverbs 10:9 – *“Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out.”* (see also Prov. 12:22; Ex. 18:21)

**9. Bridle your passions (Self-Control):** Proverbs 25:27-28 – *“It is not good to eat much honey, nor is it glorious to seek one’s own glory. A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls.”*

**10. Work hard (Diligence):** Colossians 3:23-24 – *“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”* (see also Prov. 10:4, 22:29; Ecc. 9:10)

## VI. Assess the next steps.

1. Stay connected and follow-up with them.
2. Pray for the need in the moment and later.
3. Direct them to someone equipped to provide more help.
  - Peer
  - Mentor
  - Pastor/Elder
  - Counselor

**1 Corinthians 11:1** - *"Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ."*

**1 Timothy 5:1-2** - *"Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity."*

**1 Thessalonians 2:7-8** - *"But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us."*

**1 Thessalonians 2:11-12** - *"For you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory."*

## Discussion Questions

- What kinds of difficult issues have people shared with you in church, ministry, or life? How did you handle it? Did you feel overwhelmed or equipped?
- What most impacted you from the six principles we covered?
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- What person in need do you feel led to follow-up with? Will you support them as a peer or mentor? Do you need to direct them to seek additional help from a pastor or counselor?
- What are some of your own needs right now? Do you need help to face the challenges of sin, suffering, emotions, circumstances?



## Ministry Leaders Training | Fall 2022

### Ministering with Prayer

*"Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."* - Jam. 5:16

#### 1. Prepare your heart.

- Draw near to God and he will draw near to you. James 4:8
- Be still and wait on God. Psalm 37:7

#### 2. Listen to the person and the Spirit.

- Be attentive to the person.
- Pray at all times in the Spirit. Ephesians 6:18

#### 3. Keep your prayers focused.

- Let Jesus speak through you. John 14:26
- Long prayers are not necessarily better. Matthew 6:7

#### 4. Pray, don't counsel.

- Saying a lot doesn't always mean wise counsel. Job 16:2
- If they continue sharing, invite them into prayer.

#### 5. Be open to a prophetic word.

- Listen for a word of encouragement that God brings to your mind or lays on your heart. 1 Corinthians 14:3-4
- Share a specific phrase or picture as the Lord leads.

#### 6. Be mindful of physical and practical considerations.

- Consider laying your hands on the person or inviting them to kneel, lift their hands, etc. Matthew 19:13, Acts 8:17
- Consider an appropriate volume and don't be a distraction to others. Matthew 6:6
- Consider what is appropriate and respectful regarding gender boundaries.

#### 7. Pray with faith and confidence.

- Go with confidence to the throne of grace. Hebrews 4:16
- Be confident that God hears us. 1 John 5:14-15,
- Be confident that God is willing and able. 1 Peter 5:6-7, Ephesians 3:20

#### 8. Follow-up as appropriate.

- Continue praying in your personal prayers. Colossians 4:2
- Consider taking the need to the elders. James 5:14