Caring for Small Group Members □□□□

Caring for small group members means building genuine relationships, offering spiritual and practical support, and growing together in Christ’s love.

Principle of Caring for Members

Loving one another expresses new life, exercises spiritual maturity, and sets an example. Strong relationships bring fruitful building and ministry.

Steps

1. Learn about each member’s background, work, family, and children.
2. Regularly meet for spiritual sharing and prayer with members.
3. Create opportunities for members' families to have meals together.
4. Arrange outings involving multiple member families.

Reflection: 1 John 4:11-12

- What challenges do you face in loving others?
- How can you express love in daily actions?
- How do you understand God's love being made complete in us?

Caring for Small Group Members

Spiritual Care

- Ensure everyone has a chance to speak and be heard during or around meetings.
- Listen carefully for spiritual struggles and pray specifically.
- Pray for each member by name regularly, and serve according to prayer insights.

Practical Life Care

- Pray for members' work challenges.
- Pray for their families, marriages, and children.
- Pray for health concerns and family abroad.

Follow-up on Absentees

- Contact absent members within 1–2 days.
- If absence is due to real difficulties, pray and offer help.
- If excuses are frequent, watch for signs of spiritual drift, pray, spend time with them, and inform pastors if it continues.

Following Up with Newcomers

- Greet newcomers after meetings and invite them to return.

- Follow up the next day via phone or WeChat, asking about their experience and needs.
- If help is needed beyond the small group’s ability, involve a pastor.

Reflection: Galatians 6:2

- How to bear each other's burdens practically?
- How to support and encourage during challenges?
- How to ensure everyone is heard and understood?

Establishing One-on-One Caring Partnerships

- Encourage members to pair with a same-gender partner for mutual support (e.g., for 3 months).
- Partners meet or call weekly to share challenges, Bible reading insights, and pray together.
- Reassess or reshuffle partnerships after each stage.

Reflection: James 1:19-20

- How to practice quick listening and slow speaking?
- How does anger affect your relationships?
- Share an example of practicing patience and understanding.

Caring for Seekers (Newcomers Exploring Faith)

- Actively get to know newcomers.
- Find common ground (children, hometowns, professions, hobbies).
- Build friendship naturally and gently introduce faith without arguing, following the Holy Spirit’s leading.

Reflection: Romans 12:10-13

- How to practice brotherly love and honor daily?
- How do diligence in service and perseverance in prayer show in your life?
- How has faith helped you endure challenges?

Frequent Communication with Group Members

- Keep in touch regularly through meetings, calls, Whatsapp/WeChat, emails.
- Consistent communication builds trust and openness to seek help when needed.
- If a member is unresponsive, another team member or a pastor can reach out.

Reflection: 1 Peter 4:8-10

- What does it mean to truly love one another?
- How does love help cover sins and build unity?
- How can you be a good steward of God's gifts through service?

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