

5. Pointers on how to care for one another

While waiting to begin, discuss with your neighbour:

How have you found this series so far? Anything you've started putting into practice as a result – how has that gone?

Caring for one another: it's all our jobs

- Ephesians 4:11-13, pastor-teachers “equip the saints for the work of ministry”

Recap: What have we looked at so far?

- Our Attitude: Humility (be real, ask for prayer)
- Our Approach: Proactive (move toward others)
- Our Understanding of others: The Heart & Critical Influences
- Today: Our Method! Practical tips

Discuss:

Imagine someone at Church opens up about something difficult in their life (e.g. suffering or crisis however great or small) – what might be the wrong or right way to respond?

Imagine you come to church and you're struggling – and you open up to someone – how would you hope others would respond?

1: Be personal (like Jesus is)

- Jesus himself is personal
- He expects us to be, also (John 13:35)

2: Put the other person's needs first (like Jesus did)

- Jesus put others needs first, so should we (Philippians 2:4)
- How?
 - o In speech: when & what to say (or not)
 - o Romans 12:15 – weep with those who weep, rejoice with those who rejoice
 - o ask yourself about your motivations

3: Be there

- hard to serve and care for one another if you're not around them
- Hebrews 10:25: keep meeting: church, fellowship group, other?

4: Point people to Jesus in the Bible

- Best thing you can ever say is to help them keep going with Jesus
- Ephesians 4:15: "rather, speaking the Truth in love"

5: Offer to help

- Let our actions be in line with our intentions & speech

6: Pray

- Offer to pray for someone – there & then – or during the week

Discuss:

What do you think of these 6 tips? Anything you find particularly easy/difficult, or that challenges you?

Anything you would add to the list?

Practice with your neighbour: care for another (attitude, approach, understanding & method)