

Caring for one another: Biblical Basis and practical tools

While waiting to begin, discuss with your neighbour:

Have you felt cared for by your Christian family these past 18 months? How has your caring for others been? What's been easier/harder?

The Biblical model: Church as the home of loving relationships

- The church proclaims the gospel + displays the gospel Ephesians 3:10
- Caring for one another: it's all our jobs
 - o Ephesians 4:11-13, pastor-teachers “equip the saints for the work of ministry”
- But...

Recap: What did we look in the first 4 weeks of this series?

- 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 they would / would not respond?

1: Be personal (like Jesus is)

- Jesus himself is personal (so are His followers – e.g. 2 John, 3 John)
- He expects us to be, also (John 13:35)
- When you think church, do you think people?

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)
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
- 1 John 3:17 – a real challenge!

6: Pray

- Offer to pray for someone – there & then – or during the week
- Pray for practical things, sure – but even more importantly: the spiritual (Philippians 1: 9-10)

Discuss:

Which of these have been particularly difficult these past 18 months? (have any been easier?) Grounds for rejoicing, repentance and request?

Others you would add to the list?

Practice with your neighbour: care for another (attitude, approach etc)