

GROUP LIFE LEADERS

CARE SITUATIONS IN YOUR SMALL GROUP

We all want our groups to be spaces where people are cared for and loved. Difficult situations may arise, and you don't know what to do. Here are three essential steps to help you when your small group experiences a care situation.

STEP 1: STEP INTO THE CHAOS

When someone in our group goes through a challenging time, stepping into the chaos is an excellent place to start. This just means empathizing with them and letting them know they aren't alone. As the leader, you could say, "I don't know what to say right now, but I'm so glad you told us," or "We are sorry you're going through this."

It's also essential to avoid "at least" statements. This is not the time to point out the "silver lining" in the situation or to correct them for former poor choices. Sometimes, you might pause your weekly agenda to care for them immediately. When the moment is right, pray for them as a group.

As Pastor Jeff Manion has said, "Doing anything is better than promising everything." So, a great place to start is to identify one or two tangible ways your group can support them.

STEP 2: TAG TEAM

Leading through a difficult situation isn't something you have to do alone. Many care situations extend beyond the ability of the group. If you think a situation is beyond the ability of your group to handle effectively, your staff contact is here to help. Reach out via email or text to set up a time to meet with your small group's staff contact to discuss an individual care plan.

STEP 3: WALK WITH THEM

This is the primary role of a small group in challenging situations. The group can't play the role of counselor, pastor or mentor. Instead, a group can walk alongside as caring Jesus-following friends.

Be intentional as a group and leader over the following days and weeks. Put a reminder in your phone to pray and note important dates. Then, reach out to them with a note of encouragement, written prayer, etc., at the appropriate times.

Lastly, don't be afraid to show up in person. If a person is in a hospital or there is a funeral, ask about visiting the hospital or simply go to the funeral. Those are perfect times to show God's love in a tangible way.

REACH OUT TO STAFF CONTACT

We hope you find these tips helpful as you handle care situations in your small group. Please contact your staff for more specific tips for your group. They are there to help and eager to assist you.