

Care Strategy Options

Hillside SGs

It has been said that if you fail to plan you plan to fail. Many of us have experienced that truth, so let's start planning. Here is a list of "care tactics" thirty Hillside SG Leaders developed in 2009 that you can use to form and implement your Care Strategy to help people move along the Engle Scale. Remember, the Holy Spirit does the moving, you simply follow His lead.

Start Strong:

Members show up to your small group.

- » Create, agree to, and sign a SG Covenant.
- » Think about: consistency, honesty, confidentiality, respect, prayer, & accountability.

I Thessalonians 2:8 = Make deep relationships a priority.

Hold to the Minimum:

Members attend your small group.

- » Know their names.
- » Know their spiritual condition.
- » Know why they have chosen your group.
- » Know their basic life circumstances.
- » If a person comes to your mind at any time, it is God's invitation for them to hear your voice. (Don't send them a text message or email - Call them!)
- » Always be proactive in addressing issues, because they won't go away on their own.
- » Take a moment to record any new things about group members each week in a journal.

Proverbs 27:23 = Know your people.

Prepare for Issues:

Member comes to your SG looking dejected/distraught.

- » Contact the person with the obvious troubles ASAP.
- » Form subset groups during your meeting, and pull the person into yours to create a safer environment for them to share.
- » Appoint a person to greet members, and empower that person to care for people as they enter.
- » Commission someone who is connected to that member to contact them.

I Thessalonians 3:2 = Send those with natural connections.

Expect Prayer Needs:

Member mentions a serious prayer request.

- » Make room for prayer time in your meeting.
- » Pull them aside after the meeting to go deeper.
- » Remember their needs then ask questions or get testimonies during the week and in future meetings.
- » Maintain a group prayer/praise journal.
- » Emphasize confidentiality to encourage members to share their needs safely.

Ecclesiastes 4:10 = Be a partner that helps.

Connect with the Absent:

Member misses a couple meetings in a row.

- » With the intention to set up an appointment, call them.
- » Step out and visit their home.

Hebrews 10:24-25 = Encourage group meetings.

Lead the Socially Awkward:

Member is left out or doesn't connect/flow with others.

- » Lead them into targeted one-on-one connections.
- » Organize subset groups within your meetings.
- » Teach/talk on deliberately trying to connect with people you don't mesh with or know well.
- » Meet with the member privately to give social pointers.
- » Give them a task.

I Cor. 12:22-23 = Give greater attention to those with greater needs.

Correct the Negative:

Member speaks badly about friends or family.

- » Measure the group dynamic to see if it needs to be addressed publicly, privately, or both.
- » Refocus the group onto the positive and toward the people present, while offering to meet privately.
- » Meet with the member to focus them on proactively addressing their areas of frustration with others.

Ephesians 4:29 = Let our speech be helpful.

Titus 2:3&5 = Teach respectfulness.

Remember the Faithful & Stable:

Member shows up, contributes, and is doing great.

- » Direct them to areas of service, including the leading of their own Hillside SG.
- » For every action taken for an obvious need, make contact with someone who is not in obvious need.

I Corinthians 12:23-26 = All members should receive appropriate care.

Scriptures to Help Care

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II Timothy 3:16 = All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

When caring for our SG Members, it is important to do all we can to know what God says in the Bible. Here are some passages grouped by topic. In the back of most modern Bibles, similar lists can be found.

GUIDANCE

John 16:13
Psalm 32:8

Isaiah 58:11
Psalms 37:23

DIVINE STRENGTH

Philemon 4:13
Psalm 27:1

Isaiah 40:29
Psalm 46:1

CHILD TRAINING

Proverbs 22:6
Proverbs 29:17

Proverbs 19:18
Ephesians 6:4

TRIALS OF LIFE

I Peter 4:12-13
Isaiah 26:3

Isaiah 43:2
Psalm 55:22

PEACE OF MIND

Isaiah 26:3
Colossians 3:15

Romans 5:1
Psalm 4:8

DEPRESSION

I Peter 4:12-13
Psalm 147:3

Philemon 4:6-7
Isaiah 40:31

FINANCIAL NEEDS

3 John 2
Matthew 6:33

Philemon 4:19
Luke 6:38

DISCOURAGEMENT

Hebrews 10:35-36
Psalm 138:7-8

Galatians 6:9
II Corinthians 4:8-9

DIVINE HEALTH

Jeremiah 30:17
I Peter 2:24

Matthew 9:35
Psalm 103:3

WORRY

I Peter 5:7
John 14:1

Philemon 4:6-7
Isaiah 41:10

MARITAL & FAMILY PROBLEMS

Psalm 101:2
Ephesians 4:3, 32

Joshua 24:15
Ephesians 5:33

CONDEMNATION

Romans 8:1
John 8:11

John 5:24
John 3:17-18

LONELINESS

John 14:1
Psalm 46:1

John 14:18
Psalm 27:10

FEAR

Proverbs 3:24-26
Psalm 56:11

II Timothy 1:7
Psalms 91

FORGIVENESS

Romans 4:4-8
Colossians 3:12-14

I John 1:9
Matthew 6:14-15

Who I am in Christ

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God's Word has much to say on this matter. It is good for us to know where to go when people doubt the work of Jesus.

- Titus 3:4-8**I am saved from my sin and have been spiritually born again into a new life.
- Hebrews 1:1-4**..... I am safe in Jesus, the Son of God, my Savior, my Lord, and my Provider.
- II Corinthians 5:17**..... I am a new creation in Christ. Old things are passed away; all things are new.
- Philippians 4:13**I am able to do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
- I John 4:4**.....I am safe from the world through Christ.
- Colossians 1:13-14**I am delivered from the power of darkness.
- Romans 8:31** I am on God's winning team.
- Psalms 27:1**..... I am safe in God's strength.
- John 15:16**..... I am chosen and appointed by Jesus Christ to bear spiritual fruit.
- Romans 8:17** I am a joint heir with Jesus, sharing His inheritance with Him.
- Romans 8:37** I am more than a conqueror through Christ.
- I Corinthians 12:27**..... I am a member of Christ's body.
- Colossians 3:12** I am chosen by God, holy and dearly loved.
- Ephesians 2:6**..... I am raised up and to a place of royalty with Christ.
- Romans 8:1**I am no longer under condemnation because of my relationship with Christ.