

The Responsibility of Home Group Leaders: More General Pastoral Care

1. The Basis of Pastoral Care

Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, ⁸ so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. ⁹ Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. ¹⁰ You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. ¹¹ For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, ¹² encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

1 Thessalonians 2:7b-12 NIV

Remember Who You Are in Christ (1 Thes 1)

Remember that Church is Family (1 Thes 2)

- Care for One Another (vv.7-8a)
- Share Life (v.8b)
- Work Hard (v.9)
- Set an Example (v.10)
- Be an Encourager (vv.11-12)

In Groups: Choose one of the above bullet points. What will this look like in our home group context? Try to be as practical as possible.

2. The Specifics of Pastoral Care

¹⁹ I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. ²⁰ I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare. ²¹ For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. ²² But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. ²³ I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. ²⁴ And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon.

Philippians 2:19-24, NIV

Imitate Jesus

Be Yourself

Know One Another

In Groups:

a. *Discuss what it will look like to ‘show genuine concern for one another’s welfare’ (v.20) in our home groups. You might like to think about:*

In person – groups, one to one, when specific needs/crises arise

Electronically

b. *What will effective organisation of pastoral care look like within your groups? To what extent should we be spontaneous or systematic in our pastoral care?*