

ABCs of Urgent Prayer Care

Be prepared to pray for those in crisis – you are a first responder. A promise to pray is delayed care.

A. Address the situation - What blocks faith in crisis?

1. Emotions
2. Perspective
3. Address the “outside and inside”...tell God about the outside – the situation. Tell God about the inside – the emotions and perspective
4. Phil. 4:6-7

B. Bring God in - What do they need?

1. Need God
2. Need awareness of God’s presence
3. Pray God’s attributes, His character and attributes (sovereign, loving, healer, faithful, present with us, comforter, sufficient, etc.)
4. Emphasize our desire for His presence, power, etc.

C. Communicate hope - What does hope do for us?

1. Hope gives us strength
2. Hope gives us perseverance
3. Pray God’s Word - Ro. 8:6, Psalm 23,
“He knows His plans for us.” “Nothing is too hard for God”
4. Pray God’s promises “He will not leave or forsake”, He will uphold with His right hand” “Nothing can separate us”...etc.
Psalm 31:24 “Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, All you who hope in the LORD.”

Responding As the Leader in a Small Group Discussion

- I. When you get good, accurate answers:
 - Yes!
 - Thank you – smile
 - Love it!
 - Well said!
 - Aren't you glad you heard that? (to the group)
 - Wow!
 - Good thinking
 - Challenging!
 - Let's build on this.
 - Nod and smile
 - What else?

- II. Wrong answers
 - Is there a different thought on this?
 - What is another way to look at this?
 - Other thinking?
 - Ask for an answer from someone you know is biblically solid.
 - Let's see what the Bible says from our verses.

- III. To get balanced discussion
 - Let's hear from someone who has not shared yet.
 - Cast vision before starting that you want to hear from everyone
 - Cast vision that if a person knows they answer a lot to give others time to answer and if they are quiet, be willing to share of self.
 - Some people need more time to process, let's pause for someone who hasn't answered yet.

- IV. How to get a "talker" to finish quickly
 - Interrupt – gently – and summarize then move to the next question or person.
 - Joke with them privately first about the difficulties of completing thoughts.
 - Say, "So in conclusion..." Or, "Can you wrap it up?"

Simulated Situations

As Christians, we desire to value diversity and preserve unity. It is possible and biblical for Christian women to agree to disagree agreeably.

When you have a group that disagrees about the appropriate response to the Bible:

1. Ask the group when it might be wise to refrain from expressing their own differing viewpoint?
2. What words could you use that would show respect to the person who has just shared a view different from that of the group?
3. What might indicate that the leader may need to talk to the person who is dogmatic in order to uphold the relationship?

What are some topics in which women may have strong views and/or could easily be offended by an insensitive comment by another group member? (politics, denominations, eschatology, social issues such as homosexuality, wisdom in childrearing, balance of work outside the home to homemaking. etc.)

What are some clues or cues to alert you when someone is offended or hurt in the group (stiff body, anger, sharp critical words, refusal to participate, etc.)

Exercise for practice:

Category 1. Write sentences or phrases a leader can use to intervene when someone is offended or a disagreement becomes disrespectful.

Category 2 Write questions to ask during a follow-up with an individual who was offended during the discussion.

Aim: Prayerfully and practically, we do all we can to create a safe environment in which our ladies value diversity. When kindness is compromised, our call as shepherds requires us to step in to restore and preserve unity.

The Character of God

Ann Blaser

God is:

Omnipotent	God is all powerful. Nothing is too difficult for Him.
Creator	God made the heavens and the earth.
Perfect Justice	All God's judgments are right. He is never unfair.
Triune	God is three in one, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Alpha and Omega	God is the beginning and the end. He created time and He has knowledge of the ending.
Eternal	God has no beginning and He has no end. He has always existed.
Sovereign	God is King over all. He rules over all events.
Holy	God is righteous and pure. In Him is no darkness at all.
Truth	God is truth. He never lies. His Word, the Bible is true and has authority for faith and life.
Omniscient	God knows all things. There is nothing that is secret from Him.
Omnipresent	God is present in all places and sees all things.
Love	God loves us so much that He gave us His Son.