

LEADERSHIP LESSON 27

MINISTERING IN TIME OF CRISES

OUTLINE BY JERRI HERRING

But you don't understand. I can't be a minister in times of crisis I just don't know what to say! Sometimes we miss the **greatest blessing** and become a great blessing to others simply by keeping our mouths closed. For most people in crises a thoughtful hug, a kind note or a whispered prayer is sufficient.

Crisis can be due to serious illness, death, birth of a child, marriage conflicts, children in trouble, finances and just about anything you can imagine. Some of us handle crisis better than others. For my mother-in law everything from a hang nail to a run in her stockings was a crisis. For my mom nothing seemed overtly causing her stress. Taking time to **understand** and **listen to folks** is the first step in ministering during those times.

Here are some positive ways we can minister through those crises times.

- Take someone for an appointment at the **doctor's office**. There are many times a visit to a physicians office is to receive results of serious tests and to be all alone at that time can be very frightening.
- Provide **food** when appropriate. We Baptists are great at taking food when someone in our class or church is in need but we need to make certain that we also treat those who are not yet members in the same thoughtful manner.
- Assist with **small children**. For many adults in crisis the most immediate need is to provide for their small children. What a relief it would be to have caring people who are standing in place and ready to provide child care.
- Provide the necessary **equipment** to help with more simple home repairs. The standard here is the old KISS principle: keep it simple somehow.
- Shock and despair can often cause people to say and do things that are not the norm for them. Remember that you are not involved to **judge** the words or actions but to be a support during the storm of that crisis.
- Focus on the **person** – not the **event**. Listen to what is being said to you and ask for clarification if you don't understand what is being said.

For Christians to be on mission in our setting means that we are **available** to respond to what ever crisis might be happening in our cul-de-sac, neighborhood or town. That would involve some of what I like to call pre-planning and organization.

Classes can be **organized** with ministry teams, care teams share teams or what ever title you want to call them. But the most important thing is to have a plan in place and utilize that plan through the class or Bible Study group.

Here are some things that need to be incorporated into your plan:

- **Prayer team** – people who will be responsible for calling everyone in the class to alert them to prayer concerns during times of crisis.
- **Action team** – people who will be responsible for providing practical help when needed.
i.e. food, transportation, clothing, child care

The rule is quite simple. EVERY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS IS ORGANIZED TO BE ON MISSION IN THEIR SETTING.

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1. **Every one** will have a crisis. List some crisis your church has already experienced this year.
2. Read 1 Corinthians 15:58. What does this verse mean to your class? How has your class “labored” in the past three months? How many members of your class were actually **involved** in this labor of love?
3. What kind of organization would be needed for your class to effectively minister equally to members and **non-members**?
4. The importance of a **prayer team**. Involve members by enlisting some to serve on an on-going prayer team. As new people visit call them to let them know of prayer concerns for the class. Remember to keep contact with all members by simply passing along prayer requests and asking if they have prayer concerns you could pass back to the class. Prayer changes how we look at people!

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Here are some positive ways we can minister through those crises times.

- Take someone for an appointment at the _____. There are many times a visit to a physicians office is to receive results of serious tests and to be all alone at that time can be very frightening.
- Provide _____ when appropriate. We Baptists are great at taking food when someone in our class or church is in need but we need to make certain that we also treat those who are not yet members in the same thoughtful manner.
- Assist with _____. For many adults in crisis the most immediate need is to provide for their small children. What a relief it would be to have caring people who are standing in place and ready to provide child care.
- Provide the necessary _____ to help with more simple home repairs. The standard here is the old KISS principle: keep it simple somehow.
- Shock and despair can often cause people to say and do things that are not the norm for them. Remember that you are not involved to _____ the words or actions but to be a support during the storm of that crisis.
- Focus on the _____ – not the _____. Listen to what is being said to you and ask for clarification if you don't understand what is being said.

For Christians to be on mission in our setting means that we are _____ to respond to what ever crisis might be happening in our cul-de-sac, neighborhood or town. That would involve some of what I like to call pre-planning and organization.

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Here are some things that need to be incorporated into your plan:

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- _____ – people who will be responsible for providing practical help when needed.
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3. What kind of organization would be needed for your class to effectively minister equally to members and _____?
4. The importance of a _____. Involve members by enlisting some to serve on an on-going prayer team. As new people visit call them to let them know of prayer concerns for the class. Remember to keep contact with all members by simply passing along prayer requests and asking if they have prayer concerns you could pass back to the class. Prayer changes how we look at people!