

LEADERSHIP LESSON # 78: SIX MYTHS ABOUT HOMEBOUND ADULTS

OUTLINE BY KENNY HOOMES

Homebound people are often out of **sight** and out of **mind**. Put yourself in the place of a person who is homebound. How do you feel? Are you lonely? Isolated?

We commonly think of homebound adults as elderly, severely handicapped, residents of nursing homes or convalescent homes. However, as we look closer we realize that several myths hinder us from **understanding** and **ministering** to homebound adults effectively.

Myth #1 – All homebound adults are **elderly**. A homebound adult can be anyone over the age of 18 who would normally be a part of an adult Sunday School class at church. While most homebound adults are older, many young adults are homebound because of an accident, injury or illness.

Myth #2 – All homebound adults are **institutionalized**. This image is more of a stereotype than a reality. Many adults do live in institutions; however, today many families are taking homebound relatives into their homes to provide more personalized care.

Myth #3 – The homebound ministry is only for those who **cannot care for themselves**. Adults who care for someone who is confined also become homebound. Do not forget the needs of the caregiver (fellowship, ministry, Bible study, free time etc . . .).

Myth #4 - The homebound ministry is only for our **church members**. We certainly have a responsibility to care for our members through our homebound ministry. However, the homebound ministry should also look for ways to find lost and unchurched homebound adults in our community.

Myth #5 - All we need to do is **deliver tapes** of the worship service. Delivering tapes, audio CD's or DVD's of the worship service is a wonderful idea. However, this is only a beginning point. Consider other ministry actions (provide Bibles, send cards, deliver flowers, furnish transportation etc . . .).

Myth #6 - A homebound ministry requires a large **well-defined organization**. The size of the organization should be determined by the need. You can begin with one person visiting one person. As additional members are enrolled, more visiting teachers (and a director) are enlisted.

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