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 ongoing 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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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 ___________ 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.

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• 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.

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Classes can be __________ with ministry teams, care teams share teams or whatever 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:
• __________ ________ – people who will be responsible for calling everyone in the class to alert them to prayer concerns during times of crisis.
• __________ ________ – people who will be responsible for providing practical help when needed.
  i.e. food, transportation, clothing, child care

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