

## LEADERSHIP LESSON 29

### FIVE WAYS YOUR CLASS CAN MINISTER TO PEOPLE

OUTLINE BY JOHN JOHNSTON

- Read Matthew 25:31-40
- It is apparent by this parable that Jesus defines ministry as **meeting needs of people** from all walks of life. It has been said that “people do not care how much you know until they know how much you care.” That is particularly true of Sunday School ministry. If we desire to **reach** people for life-transforming Bible study, we must be willing to **meet people at their point of need**. And, as we minister to the people we encounter, we also minister in a very real way to our Lord Jesus. (read Matt. 25:40)
- There are five key areas of ministry in which any Sunday School class can meet needs. As we minister, we not only meet needs, **we build relationships** as well!
- Five areas of ministry are:
  1. **Crisis**: A person or family faces circumstances that threaten their well-being. This might include **sickness, job-loss, or divorce**. The class can help by: **visiting the sick, providing meals, praying with people, offering encouragement**, etc. Ask the class to brainstorm specific ways to minister in a crisis.
  2. **Celebration**: A class has a wonderful opportunity to share in **happy times** too! **The birth of children and grandchildren, graduations, job-promotions**, etc. should be times where a class shares in **joy** with other people. Opportunities to minister can include: **baby or bridal showers, sending congratulatory cards, attending weddings, graduations, special events**, etc. Ask the class to share other ways to minister during times of celebration.
  3. **Bereavement**: The **death of a spouse, child, parent or any loved one** is a traumatic time but also an important time to minister. There are the usual ways to help by attending funerals and providing food, but often, more help is needed in the days, weeks and months that follow. Minister to grieving people by: **doing yard work or house work, taking care of children, and being a good listener**. How else can we help the bereaved?
  4. **Benevolence**: A touchy area of ministry is the areas of **financial** loss. When someone lacks the ability to provide for basic needs, a class can help in several ways: **providing food, clothing, toiletries to meet physical needs while maintaining close relationships through visits, prayer and encouragement**. Christians must use Godly wisdom and discernment. Some people may become embarrassed and even angry that others know of their financial plight. What are some practical ways to minister in such a case?
  5. **Intentional Kindness**: A class can impact a community by ministering in **various** ways. **providing free cold bottled water to people at various events (ball games, parades, arts and crafts shows), offering free car washes, free oil changes for senior adults, yard work for shut-ins**, etc. Look for ways to serve others outside of the church family while seeking nothing in return. Ask the group to brainstorm ways to minister to their community.
    - Discuss the value of care groups in ministering to class members.
    - Discuss how a ministry leader can coordinate outside ministry efforts.
    - Discuss the pitfalls of ministry – burn out, hurt feelings of people who feel “left-out,” con artists, ingratitude. Remind the group that our job is to serve. We can leave the results and responses in the Lord’s hands.
    - Lead the group in a time of prayer – asking God to open our eyes to the opportunities of ministry we have each day.

## LEADERSHIP LESSON 29

### FIVE WAYS YOUR CLASS CAN MINISTER TO PEOPLE

OUTLINE BY JOHN JOHNSTON

- Read Matthew 25:31-40
- It is apparent by this parable that Jesus defines ministry as \_\_\_\_\_ from all walks of life. It has been said that “people do not care how much you know until they know how much you care.” That is particularly true of Sunday School ministry. If we desire to \_\_\_\_\_ people for life-transforming Bible study, we must be willing to \_\_\_\_\_ . And, as we minister to the people we encounter, we also minister in a very real way to our Lord, Jesus. (read Matt. 25:40)
- There are five key areas of ministry in which any Sunday School class can meet needs. As we minister, we not only meet needs, we \_\_\_\_\_ as well!
- Five areas of ministry are:
  1. \_\_\_\_\_: A person or family faces circumstances that threaten their well-being. This might include \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_. The class can help by: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, etc.
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ A class has a wonderful opportunity to share in \_\_\_\_\_ too! The \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, etc. should be times where a class shares in \_\_\_\_\_ with other people. Opportunities to minister can include: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, etc.
  3. \_\_\_\_\_: The \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ or any \_\_\_\_\_ is a traumatic time but also an important time to minister. There are the usual ways to help by attending funerals and providing food, but often, more help is needed in the days, weeks and months that follow. Minister to grieving people by: \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. How else can we help the bereaved?
  4. \_\_\_\_\_: A touchy area of ministry is the areas of \_\_\_\_\_ loss. When someone lacks the ability to provide for basic needs, a class can help in several ways: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.  
Christians must use Godly wisdom and discernment. Some people may become embarrassed and even angry that others know of their financial plight. What are some practical ways to minister in such a case?
  5. \_\_\_\_\_: A class can impact a community by ministering in \_\_\_\_\_ ways: \_\_\_\_\_, ( \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, etc. Look for ways to serve others outside of the church family while seeking nothing in return.