



## Leadership Tips

### (I) When Someone Arrives in Pain

Small group ministry includes bearing one another's burdens. Here are some considerations for the next time someone comes to your group in pain.

- If possible, acknowledge the person's pain privately before your meeting and ask her if she wants to let the group know what's going on. If not, keep it confidential.
- Remember that this situation is not a surprise to God. He is in control of the situation and the group.
- Ideally, your group will have discussed in advance how to respond to people in pain. Members will know not to jump in immediately with well-meant advice. Instead they will gently ask questions and draw out the hurting person. They'll be discerning in what they share about their own experiences – no horror stories but only those personal accounts that communicate empathy.
- If certain verses come to mind, jot them on a piece of paper and give them to the person later. It is usually best not to quote Scripture while a person is pouring out his pain.
- Spend a few minutes in prayer. Incorporate the power of touch by holding hands or laying hands on the person in pain.

Before you leave, ask how the group can help. Make a plan for ongoing practical support. If the response is, "*Just pray for me,*" do it, then check back in a day or two.

### (II) Should Advice be given in Care Groups?

When a group member shares a personal problem or concern, he or she may not necessarily be looking for advice. In order for other members of the group to respond appropriately, they must know a little about *why* a person has shared his or her information.

It's helpful to ask the group member if he is sharing a concern just because he wants to get it off his chest, or because he hopes to hear advice from other group members. Then the group can respond accordingly. This will spare the group member from getting advice when he doesn't want it, or getting none when he does.

If the group member merely wants to voice his concern, the rest of the group should acknowledge this and offer whatever encouragement, sympathy, etc., is appropriate. If he indicates that he wants advice, the group should give what it can, observing the following caution : Remember that group sharing is not intended to provide a forum for group members to 'fix' the hurts of others. Sharing is intended to offer hurts to God by sharing them with a group of His people.

Perhaps there is a place for giving advice in your small group. But it should be given sparingly and with a strong sense that it is the Lord's job to 'fix' hurts, not your own.

# Care Group Ministry



Especially for  
Care Group Leaders  
&  
Assistant Leaders



BEDOK METHODIST CHURCH  
CARE GROUP MINISTRY

**Our goal : To Be A Strategic Partner of the Church Vision -**

**To Make Disciples For Jesus Christ**

# Announcing

**1. Care Group Leaders' Training –**

Fri, 19 May, 7.30 – 10.30 pm  
Sat 20 May & Sat 27 May,  
2.30 – 6.30 pm.

Please challenge potential leaders in your groups to avail themselves for this training.

**2. Family Day, Fri 12 May**

**3. Church Camp, 7 – 10 Jun**

Sign up and also encourage your members to go for the camp to experience “Days of Power”.

### Prayer Points

1. Alpha – Praise God for the 11 converts. Pray for these that God’s protective hand will be over them, helping them to be faithful. As they join Care Groups, pray that group members will be supportive and encouraging to these young believers.

2. CG Nite – Praise God for gathering of His people and the timely message. Pray that we will be sensitive and discerning to what God wants to do in the Care Groups. Pray that all of us will be Spirit-filled and Spirit-led in the Care Groups.

3. Church Camp – Pray for prepared hearts to encounter God in His Word. We will indeed see His Day of Power and move in step with His Spirit’s leading.

### Leadership Thought:

*Deuteronomy 27:9-10 - Then Moses and the priests, the Levites, spoke to all Israel, saying, “Take heed and listen, O Israel: This day you have become the people of the Lord your God. Therefore you shall obey the voice of the Lord your God, and observe His commandments and His statutes which I command you today.*

We can learn much from Samuel, not the least of which is how to be in a position to hear God’s voice. Looking at what happened in Samuel’s encounter with God, we can observe three things. Samuel assumed ...

**1. The Proper Practice**

Before God spoke to Samuel, he was doing what was right in God’s eyes. The Scripture reports, “*Samuel ministered before the Lord, even as a child*”(1 Sam 2:18) and “*Samuel grew in stature and in favour both with the Lord and men* (1 Sam 2:26). God blessed him because of his obedience.

As a leader, you must never neglect to do the right things in God’s eyes, no matter what your other responsibilities are.

**2. The Proper Posture**

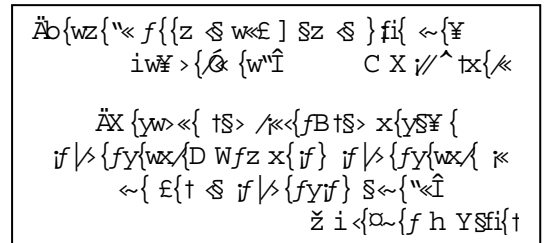
Someone asked Joan of Arc why God spoke only to her. She is said to have responded, ‘Sir you are wrong. God speaks to everyone. I just listen.’

A proper posture of quieting oneself and listening is essential to learning to recognize God’s voice. When God spoke to Samuel, it was as the boy lay down quietly in the middle of the night. Even then, Samuel did not at first recognize that the voice belonged to God. He needed the advice and wisdom of his experienced mentor, Eli to understand who was communicating with him. But based on how often Samuel heard God’s voice as an adult, it’s clear that he learned to identify, listen to and obey God’s voice.

Leaders are often very busy people and they can easily get caught up in the activity of their obligations. As a leader, that’s why it’s important to set aside times to quiet yourself and listen for God’s direction.

**3. The Proper Place**

Scripture records that when Samuel first heard God’s voice, he was ‘in the tabernacle of the Lord where the ark of God was’. That was a good place to be because that location was as close to the presence of God as a person could be in those days. Every leader belongs to God. That doesn’t mean you have to be in a place of formal worship. It just means you need to have an attitude of worship wherever you are. It’s a posture of the heart.



*Taken from: The 21 Most Powerful Minutes in a Leader’s Day by John C Maxwell*



### Reflection

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