

Saved To Serve

Week 3 - Biblical Guidance, Counseling & Shepherding in the Body of Christ, Part 2

There's someone that's been visiting church on Sundays, and also starting to attend your small group. They seem really down during small group one night so after the meeting you grab them in the kitchen and ask, "How are you really doing? It seems like something is bothering you." They start talking about their teenage daughter, and the wrong choices she's making. It looks like her husband may be laid off from his job in the next month, and she recently was diagnosed with a degenerative bone disease that has been causing her limbs to ache. She says, "I am not sleeping well. I just think about these things every night when I lay down. I'm so worried about what's going to happen to me... and my daughter... and my family. During the day I'm sleepy and irritable with everyone around me. And no matter what I say or do I can't seem to get my daughter to do the right thing. She just won't listen to me. I've tried praying, but it doesn't seem to change anything. And I've just about given up on reading my Bible because I'm so stressed out... my mind just can't focus on Bible reading right now. God feels distant"

- What are the root (heart) issues involved in this situation? _____

_____.
- What are some questions you could ask to get to the root (heart) issues? _____

_____.
- What are some big themes in Scripture that she needs to see more clearly? _____

_____.
- How would you give her hope? What specific Scriptures would you bring her to? _____

_____.
- What physical (practical) help could you offer her? _____

_____.

Debrief: -----

Greg was a regular at your small group although he was usually pretty quiet and mostly listened as others spoke. Greg has missed two weeks of group and you decide to give him a call to check up and to see how he's doing. When you do you are so glad you did because he says, "I'm glad you called because I wasn't going to come back to small group again." You are bit taken back and ask why. He says, "Well, I just don't feel like I fit in. I'm not even sure I'm a Christian. I don't seem to have the same joy that everyone else in our group does... and I just don't have it all together like everyone else in the group. I don't belong with you guys." You begin to ask them about his relationship with the Lord and he says, "Well, that's just it... I really wouldn't call it a relationship. I've heard the Gospel growing up in church, and I prayed and asked Jesus into my heart when I was 9 yrs. old, but it doesn't seem to have made much difference in my life now as an adult."

- Should you immediately assure them that they are saved? Why or why not? _____

- Where would you start? What questions could you ask to uncover root/heart issues? _____

- How would you give Greg hope? _____

- What would you tell someone who wants to know whether or not they are a Christian? What evidence in their lives would you have them look for? _____

Debrief: -----
