

CONNECT GROUP TIPS AND TRICKS

Excerpt from "The Essential Guide for Small Group Leaders" by Bill Search
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3 WAYS TO CARE FOR GROUP MEMBERS

When done right, a small group provides such excellent support and care that church staff are seldom asked to provide pastoral care. Groups that do this well are there physically, emotionally, relationally, and spiritually during challenging times. There is a place for professional counselors and pastors, but a group can and should provide basic care for one another. When group members are facing serious illness or issue, keep pastors and other appropriate church leaders informed about their condition. If there is a serious development, communicate that to the appropriate leaders.

- **Share Personal Prayer Requests.**

It's great to pray for people outside of the group, but a healthy group prays for one another. Keep a prayer log and follow up on shared prayer requests.

- **Provide Meals.**

It's great to coordinate providing meals for families when a baby is born, after surgery, or during a time of extended illness.

- **Send Notes, Text Verses, and Communicate Concern.**

Whatever technology is appropriate for your group, use it to express your love. It's amazing how thoughtful words can boost the spirits.