

Coming along side others when life is hard

David Miller, Care & Counseling Webster Campus Re-group, September 11, 2022

Coming along side others when life is hard

"Being the hands and feet of Jesus in coming along side others to comfort them when life is hard."

Quote from Afshin Ziafat, Right Now Media

<u>Link</u>

We need help/We help others

The Holy Spirit is our 'helper.' John 14:16

Our method is humility and love. Eph. 4:2

"with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love"

Build Relational equity

Building mutual trust as a foundation in caring for others.

Link (Northridge Leaders resources)

What not to say

"It could be worse"

"So, what is God teaching you through this?"

"God will work this together for His good."

"If you need me, call me any time."

"I understand or stating the reason for suffering"

"If we have not taken the time to get to know the unique facets and fears of our friend's story, then our "true counsel" most likely will be received as an ill-timed generality that will harden our friend's heart to the Gospel more than it serves as an ambassador cultivating trust for Christ."

BCC (Biblical Counseling Coalition) blog

Key principles

Listening Well (Prov 18:13; James 1:19)

God is personal (Phil 1:7)

Track emotions – a key to understanding the heart

Be careful on giving advice

Reflective Listening

Listening that involves paying respectful attention

to the content and feelings expressed in another

person's communication.

Active Listening

Asking open-ended questions.

Maintaining eye contact.

Smiling, nodding, providing visible feedback.

Listening to 'build a prayer'

Confidentiality

Always respect the other's privacy.

Confidentiality is 'the roof over the safe house.'

Without confidentiality there is no trust.

Trust opens the door to their heart issues.

Breaking Confidences

Confidential information is broken someone is in

physical danger.

If someone is in danger, who do you contact?

Your coach, pastor. Or even 911. Be pro-active.

Self disclosure and 'matching'

Be careful with too much of your own self-

disclosure or 'matching.' Too much matching is a

distraction. Self-disclosure may sometimes be

helpful but use good judgement.

"With suffering, we are called to be the Body of Christ which reminds our fellow Christian of God's identification with our suffering and His personal words to them."

Quote from the BCC (Biblical Counseling Coalition) blog

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Reflections/Examples
Share your story

Resources

Dark Clouds/Deep Mercy, by Mark Vroegop. Crossway

Side By Side, Ed Welch. Crossway

Online: https://www.ccef.org/book-category/minibooks/

Audio: https://ibcd.org/resources

