

Pastoral Care and Youth Ministry

1. How effective is our youth ministry's pastoral care programme? Use the following checklist to highlight strengths and weaknesses:
 - We have a systematic pastoral care programme that sees every person receiving individual care.
 - We intentionally teach and model a shared responsibility for pastoral care.
 - We have a clear process and specific criteria for ensuring only appropriate people provide pastoral care.
 - We have clear guidelines as to who is responsible for pastoral care and how it is to be provided.

What areas do we most need to work on?

2. What of the following form part of our pastoral care programme?
 - Pastoral care team—each adult takes responsibility for a small group of young people.
 - Peer support—young people are encouraged and expected to form the first line of pastoral care support for each other.
 - Buddy System—older members of the youth ministry are paired up with and care for younger members.
 - Mentoring—an older person spends time with a younger person, modelling faith and caring for them.
 - Family Groups—parents take primary responsibility for caring for their own teen and their teen's friends.

Any of these we don't utilise and yet could work well?

What other ideas for providing care can you think of?



Session 1:

Introduction to Adolescent Pastoral Care

Defining Pastoral Care

1. Complete the phrase below by coming up with as many verbs as possible to define the activities involved in "pastoral care"

To provide pastoral care is to:

2. Read through the following verse. It acts as a good definition of pastoral care. Underline specific ways of caring mentioned?

¹⁴ Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are lazy. Encourage those who are timid. Take tender care of those who are weak. Be patient with everyone. - 1 Thessalonians 5:14

3. Read the following verse. What do you learn about pastoral care in the early church?

⁴⁴ And all the believers met together constantly and shared everything they had. ⁴⁵ They sold their possessions and shared the proceeds with those in need. ⁴⁶ They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— ⁴⁷ all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved. Acts 2:44-47

Biblical Principles of Pastoral Care

1. Read through the following verses. What do we learn about pastoral care from the examples and teachings of Jesus?.

John 8:4-11:

Mark 9:33b-37:

Mark 8:1-8:

Luke 5:12,13:

Luke 19:2-10:

Mark 10:46-52:

Matthew 9:36-38:

Matthew 18:12-14

John 10:11-13 :

What areas do you personally most need to work on?:

Pastoral Care and Adolescence

1. Discuss the following statement. Do you agree or disagree?

Adolescents need more pastoral care than any other single group within the church.

Why is pastoral care of teenagers so important ?

2. Young people are undergoing significant developmental changes during adolescence (see studies in the “Adolescence” module). Read through the following behavioural characteristics. What do you think young people acting in each way most need from adult pastoral carers?

Emotional highs and lows:

Confusion:

Creating their own sense of identity:

Growing in their ability to be independent:

Learning to decide what is moral and right:

Grappling with questions of faith:

Trying to live a life consistent with their faith: