



Gospel Tool Group Care Support

With the Lord's blessing, Gospel Tool Groups (GT-Groups) will be wonderful places of growth and development, caring community, safety and fellowship, and places where the Spirit of God is noticeably at work. In some cases, members of the group might need help that goes beyond what can be addressed during the group time, or that goes beyond what the group is equipped to handle. This care support document can be helpful if the facilitator senses that someone may need physical or financial assistance, extended care or counsel, prayer ministry, or if there is significant conflict within the group.

It is important to be well prepared before your GT-Group gatherings begin. Please take time to communicate with the appropriate leader in your church, to fill in the blank for each of these headings with the appropriate contact information.

Physical/Financial Help: _____.

If a member of your group is struggling with physical needs, they can be referred to the Deacon team (or similar) for help. If the GT-Group is able and would like to help, the facilitator should consult the Deacons before doing so, to make sure that this care is coordinated. Some examples of these types of needs are:

- Lack of food
- Transportation assistance
- Help with rent or bills
- Financial counseling/equipping
- Medical Assistance
- Meals

Care needs: _____.

Should it become clear that a group member would benefit from individual care or counsel, please discreetly encourage them to connect with the appropriate person on staff who oversees the pastoral care of the congregation. Indicators of need may include:

- Going through a particularly difficult situation
- Lack of appropriate boundaries in sharing
- Unrealistic expectations of care and or relationship from group leaders or members
- Marital discord or family conflict
- Theological questions that go beyond group conversations
- Spiritual care needed beyond group conversations
- Mental health needs

Prayer Needs: _____.

2 Corinthians 3:17 tells us that where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom! And so, we can expect that as we gather together around the Word of the Lord, the Spirit will be present and freedom will come. The group is encouraged to pray for its members as needs arise. However, if a member's needs require more ministry than the group is wisely able to provide, that person should be discreetly encouraged to connect with the contact person above. Here are some examples of such needs:

- Habitual sin
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Emotional heaviness
- Night terrors
- Views of God that do not reflect his character
- Low self esteem
- Addiction, etc.

Reporting Unsafe Situations: _____.

If the facilitator becomes aware of unsafe situations in their group, they must immediately report it to the contact person above. Most churches today have a Safe Church Policy in place; please check with your pastor to clarify your church's process for reporting unsafe situations. Facilitators should be attentive to the following:

- Hear about abuse or neglect from the person experiencing it
- Observe signs or symptoms of abuse
- Witness or hear about an incident of abuse or neglect

Conflict Within the Group

As a reminder, in the event that conflict occurs within the group, we follow the principles laid out in Matthew 18:15-17. In all things we seek to operate in a spirit of unity and brotherly love as followers of Jesus.