



A Biblical Model for Community Care: Reflections on Matthew 25



The Parable of the Ten Virgins: Preparation

The Parable of the Three Servants and Talents: Stewardship

The Parable of the Sheep and Goats: Care and Compassion

Caring for Your Community

Community care is the ministry of the whole congregation — not just those individuals who happen to be ordained or called into the formal leadership of the church. As members of the body of Christ, we are all called to be community caregivers.

Community care occurs when members reach out through very concrete acts such as sitting by the bedside of someone who's ill, listening as parents describe their fears and grief when a teenager leaves home, offering hope to someone in despair, or praying for those who suffer on the margins of the church and society. To offer community care is not simply being kind to people and doing nice things for them. Instead, community care means being the Body of Christ in some concrete, tangible form as people turn to the Church and its members for assistance and guidance in living their lives.²

² Adapted from Marshall, n.d.

Needs in My Community

- Family/marriage problems
- Loneliness
- Hunger
- Literacy
- Inadequate housing
- Alcoholism
- Injustice
- Poverty
- Education
- Unemployment



Using the suggestions in the paragraphs above and those that surfaced in a previous discussion, make a list of 5 to 7 community care actions in the space provided below that would meet real community needs based on your current understanding of the community where your church planting effort is located. If you have your Spiritual Mapping data with you, review it to be reminded of needs that may have surfaced in the Spiritual Mapping process. If you do not have that data with you today, review it later and revise your list if necessary.

Community Care Actions Our Church Plant Can Take:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

Action Plan for Module 10

Review and revise your Community Care Actions list above with your church planting team and new church participants as appropriate. Determine which of the needs are the most urgent. Ask God to help you discern which need to address. Pray for God to provide resources for you to minister to that specific need. Select one community care action you can implement in the next month and do it. List the people and resources involved in the church plant that can help implement

this action. Make a list of partners you can engage to provide other human, material, and financial resources you may need. Likewise, make a list of community stakeholders/leaders who will need to be on board with this project. It is best to start with a small task that is likely to be successful than something big that your group might not be ready for. Be prepared to share the outcomes of your efforts during the Module 10 training.³

³ Recommended Reading and Resources:

Darrow L. Miller (1998). *Discipling Nations: The Power of Truth to Transform Cultures* (2nd Ed.). YWAM Publishing, Seattle, WA.

Darrow Miller and Friends: "Reflections on the Power of Truth to Transform Cultures."
<http://darrowmillerandfriends.com/>

Lunch (60 min.)

MODULE 9

HEALTHY CHURCH PLANTING