

Goals for counseling in small group scenarios

1. Warmly Welcome

Romans 15:7 – Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Welcoming them means:

Welcoming their **fears**

Welcoming **confession**

Welcoming **imperfection**

Welcoming **honesty**

Welcoming **hurt** and **lament**

Welcoming **tears**

Welcoming **grace**

How do I build a culture that warmly welcomes?

- a. Lead appropriately in humility and vulnerability
- b. Lead in confession
- c. Build regular rhythms of confession, encouragement, and accountability
- d. Care enough to be honest

2. Get to Know Them

We are dealing with **People**

Made in the Image of God

Who are Sinners

Redeemed by Christ's blood

Battling in the Power of the Spirit

To Overcome Sin

And Glorify God

So we listen to them:

We seek to listen actively and attentively, inclining my body and my ears forward, and paying attention to each word. We seek to listen caringly and compassionately (like Christ in Matthew 9:36), recognizing our counselee faces a difficult problem and wants our help.

How do we help?

Ask questions:

Ask don't assume. Ask don't accuse.

Ask what?

Enter their world → Understand their need → Bring them to Jesus

Enter their world

What problems are you facing?

What is your greatest struggle and need right now?

What crucial choices are you facing?

Understand their Need

How are you dealing with this?

What do you fear?

If _____ doesn't work out the way you want:

How will you feel?

What thought enter your mind?

What will you do?

Common Idol Clusters:

- ◇ Fear of man, acceptance, approval (*Prov 29:25; John 12:42-43; Gal 2:11-13; Heb 11:27*)
- ◇ Success, power, control (*1 Sam 13:8-14; Luke 22:24-27; 3 John 1:9-10; Isa 30:1-2*)
- ◇ Comfort, convenience, tranquility, ease (*Luke 9:23-24,57-62*)
- ◇ Money, possessions (*Matt 6:19-24; Luke 12:15; 16:13-15; 1 Tim 6:9-10,17; 2 Tim 3:2*)
- ◇ Sensual pleasure (*2 Sam 11:2-4; 13:1-14; Phil 3:19; Gen 39:9-10; 1 Thes 4:3-6*)

Bring them to Jesus

Who is God?

What is He up to?

What does He promise?

What does He call you to believe, need, hope, and obey?

3. Give them Christ-Centered Hope

Five passages for General Hope:

- a. Matthew 11:28
- b. 1 Corinthians 10:13
- c. 2 Peter 1:3-4
- d. Hebrews 4:15-16
- e. John 1:14; 16

4. Propose a Future Meeting

If the problem is serious or warrants further questions set up a meeting, or facilitate setting up a meeting with another member of the group

Follow the same trajectory as we have outlined, but more intentionally

If necessary make the transition to on-going counseling

Ask for help when you need it

-Counseling team

-Elders

-Other community group leaders