

# MINISTRY THROUGH THE SUNDAY SCHOOL



**Contacting With Consistency**

Sunday School/Open Group Ministries

Pole Creek Baptist Church

# Assignments

1. Compare current enrollment to the enrollment in your church one year and five years ago.
2. Conduct an enrollment audit/survey during a worship service.
3. Develop enrollment guidelines for your Sunday School. Communicate these to your leaders.
4. Read Chapter 3 of *Key Strategies*.

# What Would You Do:

- If God personally placed a gift into your hand?
- I Corinthians 12:18



# How Would You Feel If:

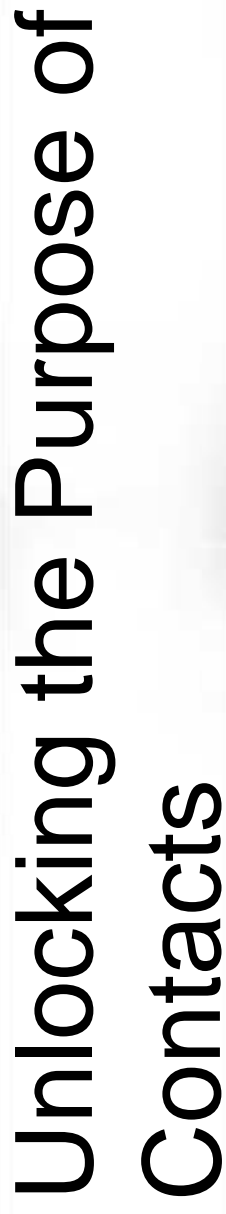
- You missed church for several weeks in a row and no one noticed?
- Your spouse was in the hospital and you received no acknowledgement or visits from the pastor or staff?
- You had no connection to the church beyond Sunday Mornings?
- You taught a children's class but experienced little interaction with adults?

# REMEMBER:

- Those enrolled are a group of people that God has placed in the care of the Sunday School leader to minister to and to teach.
- Contacts are the avenue through which ministry needs are discovered and responded to.

# What Are Contacts?

- A contact is an intentional communication on behalf of the Sunday School class through phone calls, e-mails, visits, post cards, or wayside encounters.
- Contacts are a planned approach to let class members, absentees, and prospects know they are cared for.




# Unlocking the Purpose of Contacts

- When Sunday School leaders and members understand that enrollment is a ministry list, the attitude towards contacts should change from duty to opportunity and from chore to privilege.
- Who needs ministry?
  - Regular attendees, sporadic attendees, chronic absentees, prospects and in-service members.



## Finding The Right Combination

- Contacts cannot be measured unless they are reported each week.
- Having classes report contacts serves as a tool for accountability, motivation, and measurement.
- Having classes report contacts enables the leadership to have a better understanding of the degree to which ministry and follow-up is or is not taking place.

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- Making contacts each week should be a priority because ministry is a priority.
  - A healthy Sunday School will strive to report contacts equal to or higher than the total enrollment each week.

## Good Questions For Evaluation:

- How many contacts are reported each week?
- Who is being contacted?
- How many people have been enrolled this year?
- How many chronic absentees have been reclaimed this year?
- Did in-service members know about the last fellowship opportunity?

# Breaking Through

- Exodus 18
- Acts 6
- Both of these are examples of the way leaders were encouraged to organize for more effective and efficient ministry.

# Be Sure Your Class Understands:

1. The Purpose of Sunday School.
2. The Biblical functions of the Sunday School.
3. The proper definition and purpose of enrollment.
4. The purpose and potential of consistent ministry contacts.

# Contact Methods

- Random Encounter
  - Strengths: Personal interaction, less formal than home visit, variety of opportunities.
  - Weaknesses: Time constraints based on setting, does not lend itself to assigned contacts.

# Contact Methods

- Home Visits
  - Strengths: Perception of body language, personal touch, avenue to discover needs.
  - Weaknesses: May impose, high cost of time and energy.

# Contact Methods

- Telephone Calls
  - Strengths: Many calls can be made in a short time, can leave a verbal message if not at home, low cost of time and energy.
  - Weaknesses: Cannot pick up on interests observed in person, cannot pick up on non-verbal communication.

# Contact Methods

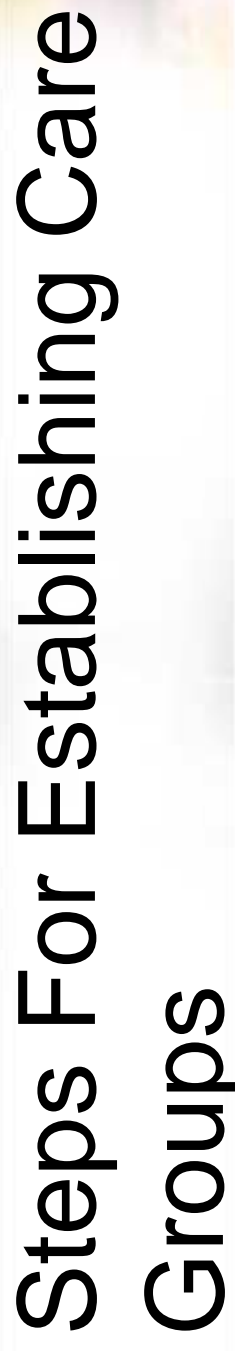
- Cards/Letters
  - Strengths: Can write in short time from any place, care communicated in time expended, can think through wording.
  - Weaknesses: No personal interaction, amount of communication minimized, cost of postage.

# Contact Methods

- E-mail
  - Strengths: Less formality expected, quick delivery, inexpensive, one note to several people, appeal to technological generation.
  - Weaknesses: Impersonal if sent to more than one person, limited interaction.

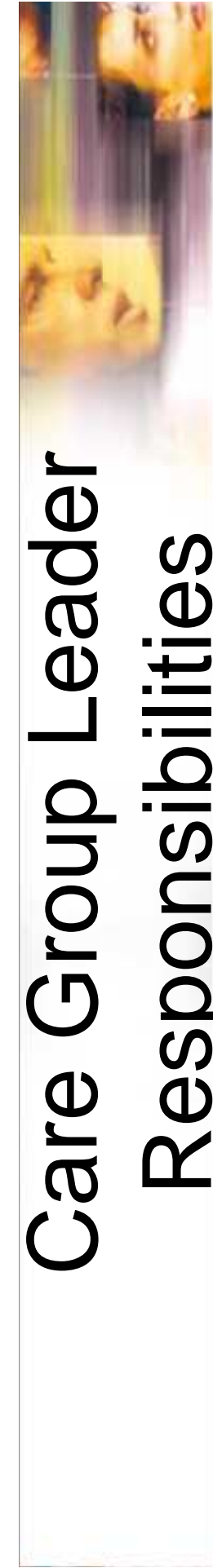
# Equip Your Class

- Class members may not volunteer to make contacts if they do not understand the purpose or understand the potential methods.
- Invest time in training class members to participate at their level of comfort.
- Take time in class each week to discuss and report contacts.
- Establish Care Group Ministry in each Youth and Adult Class.



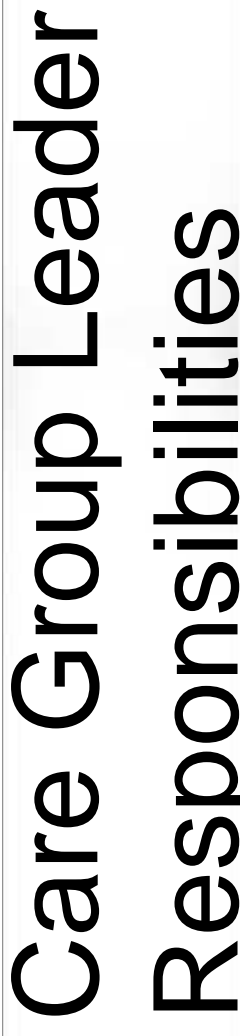
# Steps For Establishing Care Groups

1. Enlist and Train a Care Group Coordinator for your class. [See Keys Book for Details]
2. The Care Group Coordinator will enlist one Leader for every four to seven persons or couples enrolled.
3. Schedule quarterly training/update meetings for your care group leaders.
4. Assign or allow leaders to select members for their Care Group.
5. Begin making weekly contacts through Care Groups.



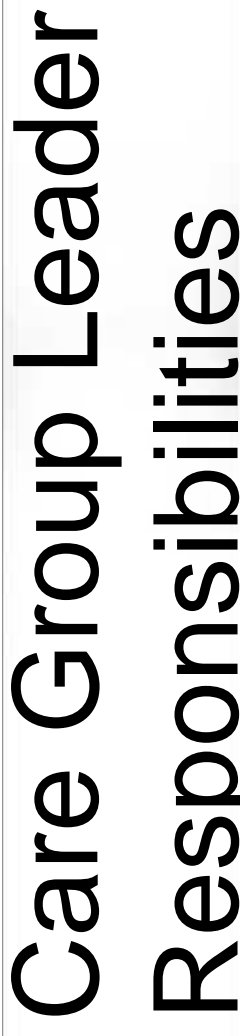
# Care Group Leader Responsibilities

1. Call each person assigned to your group within one week.
2. Get to know them personally. Write down biographical information including names of all family members, birthdates or all family members, mailing address, e-mail address, wedding anniversary, special interests, and any other information that would be helpful in providing ministry.



# Care Group Leader Responsibilities

3. Visit each person that is assigned to your group in their home or have them in your home within four weeks of the assignment.
4. Call each member of your group each Monday or Tuesday night. Ask the following question: Do you have any prayer requests this week? Pray for any needs discovered and assist in meeting them when and if possible. Maintain confidentiality when appropriate.



# Care Group Leader Responsibilities

5. Acknowledge birthdays, anniversaries, special accomplishments, etc. of family members of the person assigned.
6. Develop a relationship with those assigned to the greatest degree possible in order to provide encouragement and ministry.

# Contact/Ministry Ideas

1. Ask all adult and youth classes to enlist a Care Group Coordinator.
2. Expect all classes to organize into Care Groups.
3. Have every class report total contacts made each week.
4. Report contacts in the same way that attendance is reported to elevate the importance.
5. Utilize Saturday night callers.

# Contact/Ministry Ideas

6. Assign contacts before leaving class on Sunday Morning.
7. Develop a Prayer chain.
8. Deliver a gift (basket of goodies) to all first time guests.
9. Name Tag Contacts.
10. Meet regularly to update and train care group leaders.



# Assignments

1. Work with the Sunday School Director to develop a plan for equipping leaders to make, report, and measure contacts each week.
2. Plan an evening to equip Care Group Leaders for Adult Classes.
3. Read Chapter 4 of *Key Strategies*.
4. Bring as many leaders as possible to “age-graded training” session.

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