

Pastoral training: Session 1

Introduction

This is the first of a number of short clips aimed at introducing and exploring the idea of pastoral care. Over the 9 core modules we will be looking at 3 key elements of pastoral care: community, challenge and care.

Key verse 1: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34)

Key passage 2: Isaiah 61:1-3. All the groups mentioned in this passage – the poor, the broken-hearted, the bereaved – are in need of support and care.

The basis of our care should be to bring Jesus into every situation.

Jackie Pullinger says: "When we do the ordinary it gives God permission to do the extraordinary."

Purely reactive or crisis driven pastoral care is not adequate on its own. Good pastoral care should also be proactive in providing support and challenge to individuals in its care.

It is important that our own spiritual life is healthy. Disciplers need to be disciplined!

We offer pastoral care in order to help others develop good relationships with God and with others, so they are more able to become followers of Jesus.

Questions for discussion

- Do you agree with the definition of pastoral care in the video?
- What is your own experience of receiving pastoral care?
- Are you being disciplined by someone?