



# ENGAGING COMMUNITY: Supporting Families in Crisis

## To Think About...

*What are the high points and low points of how people have reached out to you when you were in a time of need or crisis?*

*What have your experiences taught you about how an effective Christ-centered community should function?*

*What differentiates Christ-centered outreach from other types of community or social services to people in need?*

*What is one new or different way you can contribute to support communities in your life so that they bear more of the fruit Christ intends them to?*

### ASK HUMBLY IN FAITH

MATTHEW 8:8-13 (NIV) The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that moment.

### BE SPECIFIC

EXODUS 17:12-15 (NIV) When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset. So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword...built an altar and called it The LORD is my Banner.

### LOOK WIDE

1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-6 (NIV) There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

### LOOK LONG

GALATIANS 6:9-10 (NIV) Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

### SHOW GRACE & RESPECT

COLOSSIANS 3:12-14 (NIV) Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

### SERVE GENEROUSLY

2 CORINTHIANS 9:12-13 (NIV) This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.

### SERVE PRACTICAL & SPIRITUAL NEEDS

MARK 2:3-4 (NIV) Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on.

### LISTEN, DISCERN & LEARN

ROMANS 12:15 (NIV) Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. PROVERBS 27:17(NIV) As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

### HAVE A SENSE OF HUMOR

PROVERBS 17:22 (NIV) A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

### BE AVAILABLE

PROVERBS 15:23 (NLT) Everyone enjoys a fitting reply; it is wonderful to say the right thing at the right time!